REI TRIED TO STOP HIM.
BUT...
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
SEIII

BUT IT WAS NO USE.
SEI SHOOK OFF REI'S HAND AND...
THE POOR GUY SAW A DEAD BODY THAT LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE HIMSELF

HEY, SEI..
DON'T YOU MIND HIM SAYING THAT?
IT'S OKAY. IT'S THE TRUTH, ANYWAY
SEI'S TWO STRONG POINTS ARE DRAWING AND CRYING
HE WAS A REALLY SWEET GUY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME YOU SENSED THIS INCREDIBLE FRAGILITY
I HEARD HE WAS BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL.
WHY WOULD SEI KILL HIM SELF?
THERE WAS NO SUICIDE NOTE.
BUT HE HAD BEEN BULLIED BEFORE
HE WAS EXTREMELY SHY AROUND STRANGERS, UNLIKE REI

REI FEELS SO GUILTY ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO PROTECT HIS BROTHER IN THE END
NOT LONG AFTER SEI WAS GONE.
KRAAKK
REI WAS BORN JUST AS STRONG AS I WAS BORN WEAK.
THANKFULLY REI'S ALWAYS THERE TO PROTECT ME.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS BECAUSE HE SAW HIS DEAD BROTHER'S FACE...OR MAYBE HE WAS JUST ANGRY AT HIMSELF BECAUSE HE COULDN'T SAVE SEI.
EITHER WAY, HE'D LEARNED TO FEEL LOATHING EVERY TIME HE SAW HIMSELF
IN A RAGE, HE BROKE ALL THE MIRRORS IN THE SCHOOL.
REI!!
STOP THAT, REI!

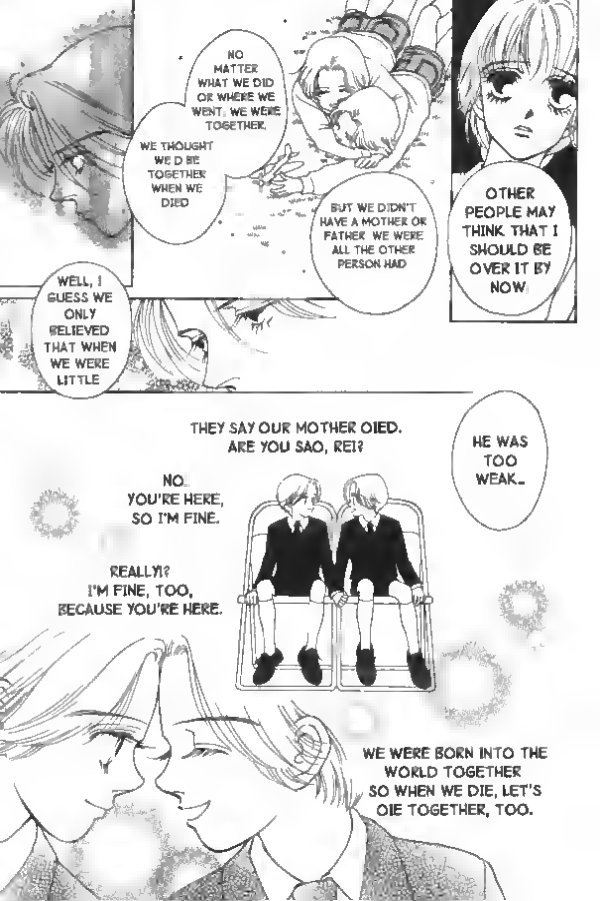
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY!
IT'S THAT FATHER WHO'S TERRIBLE
RIGHT AFTER HIS KIDS LOST THEIR MOTHER, HE SHIPPED THEM OFF TO L.A. TO LIVE WITH RELATIVES FOR EIGHT YEARS
DURING THAT TIME, NOT ONLY DID HE NEVER VISIT THEM, BUT HE DIDN'T WRITE THEM A SINGLE LETTER. EITHER. HE JUST SENT MONEY.
WHAT KIND OF FATHER IS THAT?!
SOMETIMES UPPERCLASSMEN WOULD HIDE AND TAKE PICTURES OF REI THAT REALLY MADE HIM MAD
AFTER THAT..
REI STARTED PASSING OUT ..
IT MUST BE NERVE-RELATED..
BECAUSE HE SUDDENLY STOPS BREATHING AND BECOMES ALMOST PARALYZED
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WORRIED?!
REI'S FATHER WAS REALLY WORRIED, SO HE SENT HIM TO A SPECIAL HOSPITAL.
HE JUST COULDN'T HANDLE REI ANYMORE, SO HE THREW HIM IN THE HOSPITAL
AKITAKA!

HE GREW UP NOT KNOWING EITHER OF HIS PARENTS
SEI WAS HIS ONLY BLOOD RELATIVE.
AND THEN WHEN HE DIED LIKE THAT...
IT'S CRAZY TO EXPECT REI TO BE NORMAL
WHAT ARE YOU YELLING ABOUT?
I CAN HEAR YOU ALL THE WAY OUTSIDE
MICHEL

I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE MENTIONED IT.
SUCH DEEP WOUNDS
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. MY CHILDHOOD WASN'T AS HORRIBLE AS AKITAKA MAKES IT SOUND
SURE MY FATHER CARED MORE ABOUT WORK THAN HE CARED ABOUT HIS OWN KIDS
BUT IT WAS EASIER TO NOT HAVE HIM ON OUR BACKS ALL THE TIME.

I WAS NEVER LONELY BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS WITH SEI.
SEI AND I WERE PLAYING AROUND IN THE AIRPORT LIKE IT WAS A DAY IN THE PARK
MY MOTHER'S COUSIN HAD MARRIED AN AMERICAN AND WAS LIVING IN L.A. I REMEMBER THE DAY SHE CAME TO GET US.
L.A. WAS GREAT
EVERY WEEKEND MY AUNT AND UNCLE TOOK US TO ALL SORTS OF PLACES
CAMPGROUNDS... THE SHOOTING RANGE, INDIAN RESERVATIONS...
...BUT WHAT REALLY GOT ME WAS THE RACETRACK
I STARTED WITH MOTOR-CROSS. THEN POCKET BIKES, THEN MINIBIKES
I WAS SO OBSES-SED
MOTORSPORTS ARE BIG OUT THERE, AND MY UNCLE WAS INTO DART RACES
HE'S THE ONE WHO INFLUENCED ME TO START RIDING

WHY?
I'M NOT GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL, ANYWAY
WE USED TO BE TOGETHER ALL THE TIME.
AFTER JUNIOR HIGH, I'M GOING BACK TO L.A. TO BE A PRO RACER.
DAD TOLD YOU RACING'S NO GOOD IT'LL AFFECT YOUR GRADES.
WHY WON'T YOU STOP ESPECIALLY AFTER BEING SO BADLY HURT?
HE HATED ANY SORT OF STRUGGLE OR ANYTHING GORY
UNLIKE ME HE COULDN'T TAKE IT
HE WAS SCARED OF THAT FREAKED OUT FEELING HE GOT AT THE RACES
BUT SEI REALLY HATED IT
WHY DO YOU KEEP GETTING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM ME? REI!
IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT...
...THAT HE KILLED HIMSELF

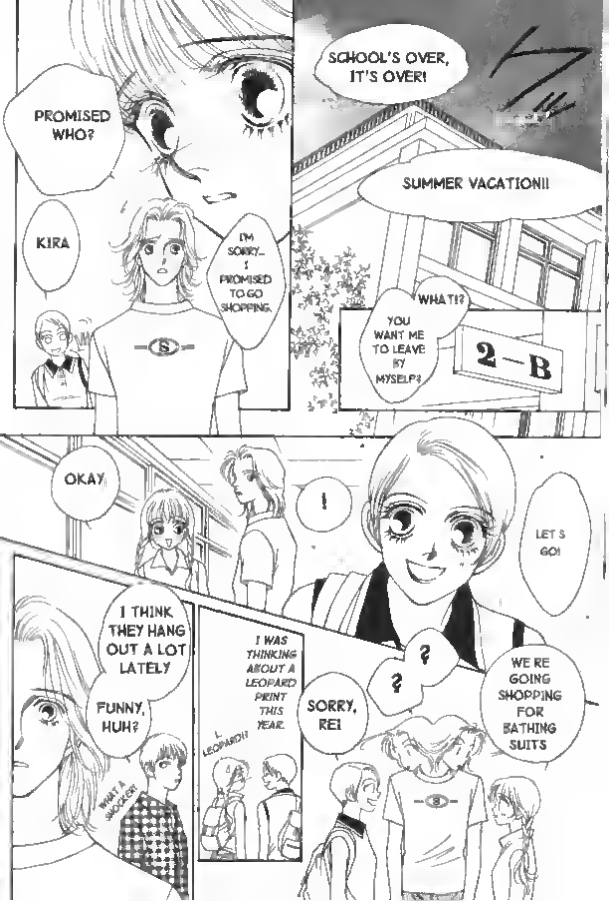

NO MATTER WHAT WE DID OR WHERE WE WENT, WE WERE TOGETHER.
WE THOUGHT WE'D BE TOGETHER WHEN WE DIED
BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE A MOTHER OR FATHER WE WERE ALL THE OTHER PERSON HAD
OTHER PEOPLE MAY THINK THAT I SHOULD BE OVER IT BY NOW.
WELL, I GUESS WE ONLY BELIEVED THAT WHEN WE WERE LITTLE
THEY SAY OUR MOTHER DIED. ARE YOU SAD, REI?
HE WAS TOO WEAK..
NO. YOU'RE HERE, SO I'M FINE.
REALLY!? I'M FINE, TOO, BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE.
WE WERE BORN INTO THE WORLD TOGETHER SO WHEN WE DIE, LET'S DIE TOGETHER, TOO.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU EVEN MORE
I'M SO SORRY I MADE YOU THINK ABOUT SEI AGAIN.
IT'S A PROMISE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MODEL FOR ME ANYMORE.
I'M A LITTLE SCARED...
...BUT I WANT TO SEE THE ME THAT YOU DRAW.
IT'S OKAY...
I DON'T REALLY MIND
I DON'T MIND DOING IT FOR YOU

CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
I WAS NEVER SCARED OF ANY-THING..
UNTIL I MET YOU.

THE THING I'M MOST SCARED OF-
-IS HAVING YOU RIDE WITH ME
I'D RATHER DIE THAN FALL.
THANKS TO YOU, I RIDE WAY MORE SLOWLY NOW ON THE STREETS

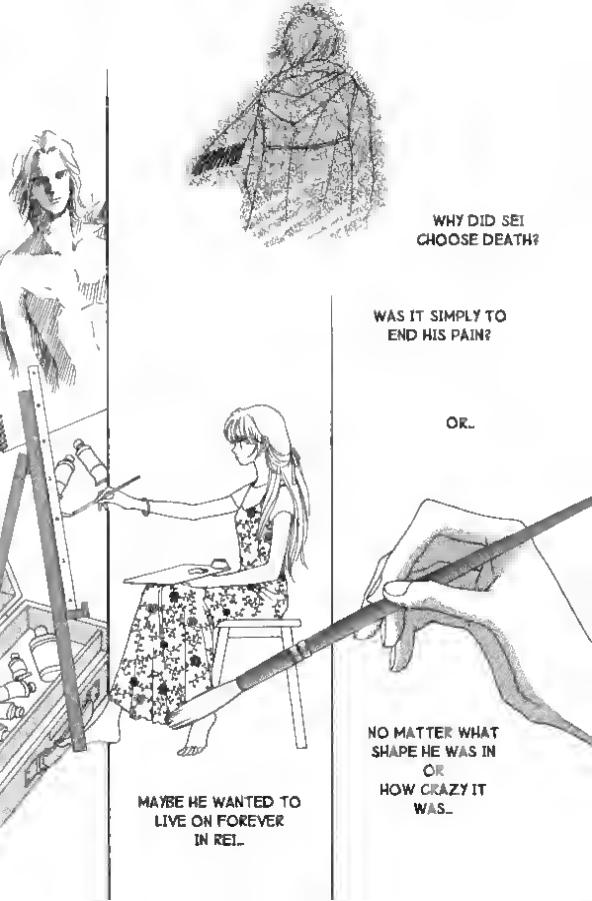
REI'S FINALLY FOUND SOME-THING...
...TO CARE ABOUT.


SCHOOL'S OVER, IT'S OVER!
SUMMER VACATION!!
2-B
WHAT?!
YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE MY MYSELF?
I'M SORRY... I PROMISED TO GO SHOPPING.
KIRA
PROMISED WHO?
OKAY.
!
LET'S GO!
WE'RE GOING SHOPPING FOR BATHING SUITS
?
?
SORRY, REI
I WAS THINKING ABOUT A LEOPARD PRINT THIS YEAR.
LEOPARD?!
I THINK THEY HANG OUT A LOT LATELY
FUNNY, HUH?
WHAT A SNOOZER!

I'M SORRY, REI...
YOU'RE REALLY IMPORTANT, BUT...
MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOK FOR SWIM TRUNKS TOO
LEOPARD PRINT?
YESTERDAY'S FOE IS TODAY'S FRIEND, EH?
CUUTE!
...MY NEW FRIENDSHIP WITH HARUMI IS IMPORTANT, TOO
THIS'LL LOOK SO GOOD ON YOU YOU SHOULD TOTALLY GET IT
NO WAY! NOT ME!
WHAT!?
I'M NOT GOING TO SUZUKA
WHAT!?
.....
BUT THERE ARE FIVE SWIMMING POOLS AROUND THE SUZUKA RACETRACK
YOU HAVE TO GET A NEW SWIMSUIT AND SHOW IT OFF TO REI.

MY FATHER WAS KILLED BY AN OUT-OF-CONTROL CAR
I GUESS THE OTHER DRIVER WAS UNDERAGE AND PART OF A MOTORCYCLE GANG
UNFORTUNATELY I THINK MY MOTHER'S IMAGE OF REI GETS CONFUSED WITH THE GUY WHO KILLED MY FATHER.
MY MOTHER WON'T LET ME GO
WHY!?
HOW COULD YOU NOT BE THERE WHEN REI'S RACING?!
OUT OUUT
WHAT DOES REI SAY?
HE WAS JUST LIKE, "WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO?!"
EVEN THOUGH THE MOTORCYCLES ARE FAST AND SUPER LOUD THEY SAY YOU CAN STILL HEAR THE CROWD
CAN YOU GO CHEER HIM ON IN MY PLACE?

HEARING THE CHEERS REALLY HELPS.
WELL...
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL GO AS A FAVOR TO YOU, ON ONE CONDITION...
CALL ME RUMI FROM NOW ON.
I
IT'S NOT REALLY MY STYLE TO BE CALLED BY MY FULL NAME
GOOD...
RUMI...
.....
HARUMI?
RUMI!
STOP THAT!
RUMI, RUMI!!
WAS REI...
...REALLY THE ONLY PERSON SEI COULD COUNT ON?
THAT'S MY NAME. DON'T WEAR IT OUT


WHY DID SEI CHOOSE DEATH?
WAS IT SIMPLY TO END HIS PAIN?
OR..
NO MATTER WHAT SHAPE HE WAS IN OR HOW CRAZY IT WAS..
MAYBE HE WANTED TO LIVE ON FOREVER IN REI..

VERRRMM

IT'S FINALLY THE BIG DAY
THE SUZUKA'S TOMORROW, RIGHT?
I HOPE YOU GET SOME GOOD SCORES!
NO PROBLEM I'M GREAT!
JUST KIDDING.
WASN'T THIS THE PARK...
...WHERE WE FIRST MET?

I WAS TALKING TO YOU BEFORE I EVEN REALIZED IT
I DIDN T GO OVER TO YOU RIGHT AWAY THAT DAY
I WAS ACTUALLY WATCHING YOU FOR A WHILE...
...WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE DRAWING
DO I...
...REMIND YOU OF SEI?

YOU KINDA DO AND YOU KINDA DON'T
AT FIRST, I WONDERED IF THAT'S WHY I WAS ATTRACTED TO YOU...
...BUT IT'S NOT.
YOU'RE MUCH MORE STRONG WILLED

IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT SCARED...
I'D RATHER HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE ALL THE TIME.
YOU DON'T GET SCARED
NO MATTER WHAT I DO YOU DON'T TELL ME TO QUIT RIDING.
PLUNK

I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU GO TO SUZUKA...
HERE, YOU SHOULD KEEP THIS
BUT YOU WON WEARING THIS BRACELET BEFORE, RIGHT?
SO IT'LL GIVE YOU GOOD LUCK THIS TIME, TOO.

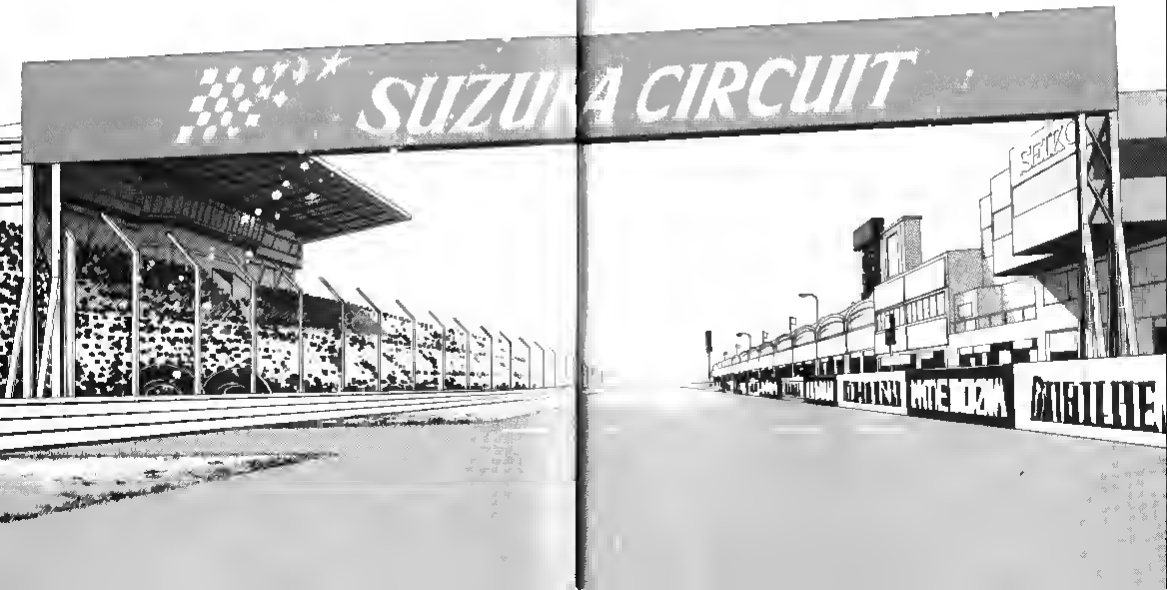
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A PIECE OF THREAD AS LONG AS IT'S YOURS, IT'S PERFECT.
ANYTHING WILL DO
YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME SOMETHING OF YOURS
BUT...
IT'S YOURS NOW, KIRA
1

KYOKO WAS SAYING...

...THERE ARE ANGELS AND DEMONS AT THE RACETRACK.

SMILE UPON REI.

PLEASE LET THE ANGELS...

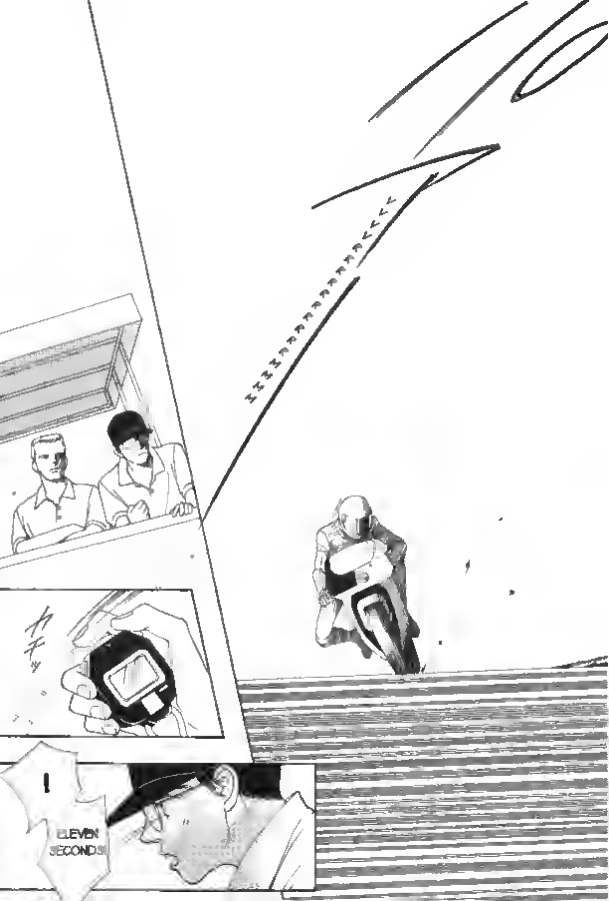


CHECK IT OUT!
THOSE ARE THE FAMED RACE QUEENS
OHHHH.
YO, YO I CAN'T TAKE IT.
WHAT A JERK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PICKING UP GIRLS?!
GO ASK FOR THEIR PHONE NUMBERS.
WHAT?
WHAT A CRAZY VIBE!
IT'S LIKE A FESTIVAL FOR US... BUT IT MUST BE HARD FOR THE RIDERS.
IT'S MORE LIKE A FESTIVAL THAN A RACE
I WONDER HOW REI'S DOING?

HRC
HONDA
BUM
HEY, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR MACHINE AND THE WORKS TEAM'S RC45?
TEAM

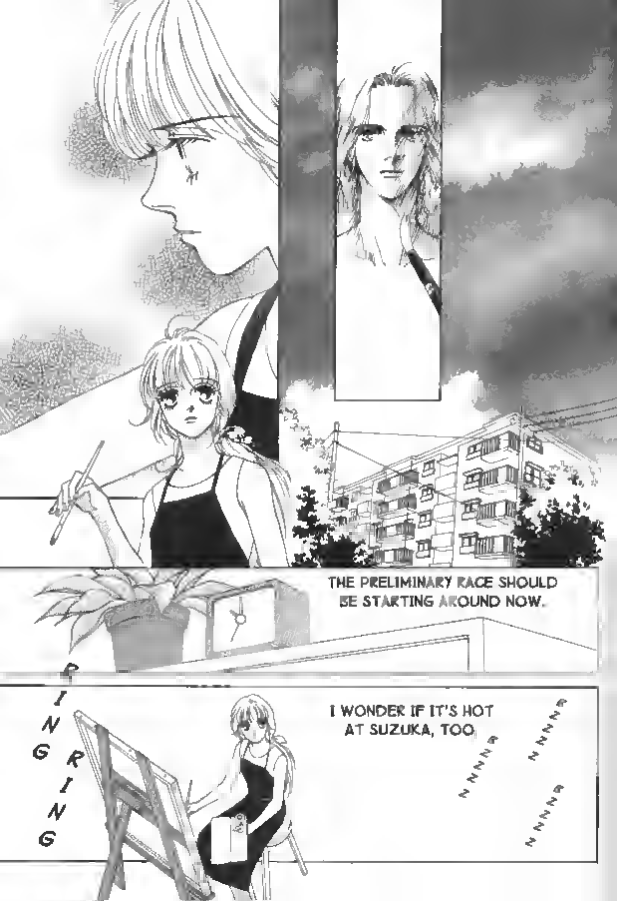
HRG'S MACHINES HAVE OUTRUN THE WORKS TEAM S IN EVERY SINGLE ENDURANCE THEY'VE BEEN IN
THEY WERE MADE SPECIALLY FOR THIS YEAR'S RACE.
THE MACHINES ARE TOP OF THE LINE AND SO ARE THE RIDERS.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SKILL REI HAS, HE'S NO MATCH
BUT WHEN HE DID THAT TWELVE-SECOND RUN ON HIS FIRST SHOW AT SUZUKA...
I WAS SHOCKED, I'LL TELL YOU THAT
DON'T BOTHER THINKING ABOUT THAT.
YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT RACING
BUM
TEAM
HE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE WORKS TEAM HUH?!
WELL, THEY ARE THE BIGGEST CONTENDERS IN THIS RACE

KIRA!?
PAT!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE ALL SPACED OUT


カチッ
!
ELEVEN SECONDS!

KYOKO!
WHAT'S REI UP TO? IS HE SLEEPING?
NOW HE JUST HAS TO NOT BUCKLE UNDER THE PRESSURE.
HE IS ONLY SEVENTEEN, AFTER ALL.
NO
THIS IS AMAZING! HE GOT AN ELEVEN SECOND RUN ON THE FIRST HALF OF THE SPECIAL STAGE
LOOKS LIKE TOMORROW'S RACE WILL BE VERY EXCITING
HOTEL RIVA
YEAH, HE'S DOING REALLY WELL.
HE WENT OVER TO THE CAMP-GROUNDS.
HE SAID SOME OF HIS FRIENDS WERE HERE TO CHEER HIM ON
WHO'S THE KING!?

AAAAAAAH
ARGH
OKAY
ALL THE GUYS DROP THEIR PANTS!
YEAH!
ME ME ME!!
THIS CAN'T BE GOOD
DAMN, HE'S THE WORST POSITION TO BE HITTING RIGHT NOW
FLUTTER
.....
THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL SUPER-HUMAN NERVES OF STEEL!
AAHHHHHH!
PUT 'EM BACK!
IT SEEMS LIKE THE PRESSURE DOESN'T REALLY AFFECT HIM


THE PRELIMINARY RACE SHOULD BE STARTING AROUND NOW.
RING RING
I WONDER IF IT'S HOT AT SUZUKA, TOO.
NNNNR
NNNNR
NNNNR

ASO RESIDENCE
CLICK
REI!
WHAT...?
WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM?
FROM SUZUKA?
I JUST GOT DONE WITH THE FREE RUN
NEXT, IT'S THE CEREMONY...
AND THEN THE FINAL RACE.
HONDA

IT'S SWELTERING OVER HERE
WHAT ABOUT OVER THERE?
YEAH, IT'S HOT HERE, TOO
HOW RE YOU DOING?
RED-HOT..
..IS WHAT I WAHT TO SAY, BUT I'M NOT DOING THAT GREAT
THERE ARE TOO MANY RIDERS ALL AROUND ME.
BUT I'LL BE FINE IF YOU HELP ME OUT..
H..
HELP?
KISS ME.
B-BUT..
WE'RE OH THE PHONE.
THAT'S OKAY!

I'LL FEEL IT IF YOU DO IT WITH LOVE
KISS ME

TEN SECONDS
TO START!
ROOOOAR
HONDA

1
2
3
4
5

Coca-Cola
SUZUKA CIR
BRIDGESTONE
BRIDGESTONE
BRIDGESTONE
GO!!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FAST.
I WON'T MIND IF YOU'RE NOT FAST.

AND IT HAS BEGUN AGAIN, THIS TWO-WHEELER FESTIVAL. THE SUZUKA 8-HOUR ENDURANCE ROAD RACE!!
JUST PLEASE COME BACK SAFE.
WHO WILL BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT AND MEET THE CHECKERED FLAG EIGHT HOURS FROM NOW?
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE
DUNLOP
DAMN
DAMN, THEY'RE FAST!!
THAT'S CRAZY SPEED!! HOW FAST ARE THEY GOING?!
THEIR TOP SPEED IS AROUND 270 TO 280 KM.

IN THIS UNGODLY HEAT, THEY DO EIGHT ONE-HOUR SPRINTS
ENDURANCE IS JUST THE NAME
IT'S A HARD RACE FOR BOTH THE RACERS AND THE TARMAC.
THE SUPERBIKES ARE A MONSTER CLASS THAT CAN GO UP TO 300 KILOMETERS PER HOUR
IS THIS YOUR FIRST 8-ENDURANCE?
YES
I HEARD THE WORD ENDURANCE AND THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE MORE RELAXED. BUT IT'S CRAZY!
HA HA. THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL THE 8-ENDURANCE SPIRIT.

GET REI ON STANDBY
OKAY
REI...
CLICK
IT'S ALMOST TIME
I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT I'D BE GETTING AN IV.
THE RACERS' EXHAUSTION ISN'T AN OPTION AT THE E-ENDURANCE.
THIS GET IT OFF NOW!

SO KYOKO'S FOURTEENTH?
IT'S A BIG DROP FROM THE 8TH PLACE YOU GOT.
BUT SHE'S DOING THE BEST SHE CAN.
I THOUGHT WE'D BE SWITCHING OFF MORE.
NO, SHE'S PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT.
THE SETTINGS ON THE BIKE ARE GEARED MORE TOWARDS ME, SO SHE'S PROBABLY STRUGGLING...
HOW'S KYOKO DOING?
SHE WAS IN FOURTEENTH UNTIL THE LAST LAP..
BUT AT ANY RATE, THE WORKS RIDERS FROM EACH COMPANY ARE BATTLING IT OUT FOR THE TOP SPOTS
IT'S HOT TODAY TOO
IT WAS 95 DEGREES BY NOON
HEY.
HOW'RE YOU FEELING?
HONDA
RACING
HRC
namco
RUNA

BUT IT'S BETTER THIS WAY
ASTRO VIS
BINO
CHASING SUITS ME BETTER
THAT'S KYOKO KATAYAMA.
SHE RACED IN THE GP's* UNTIL LAST YEAR. SHE'S AS GOOD AS ANY MAN OUT THERE
ISN'T NUMBER 96 A WOMAN, EVEN?
ARE THEY GOING TO LAST # HOURS LIKE THIS?
IT REALLY IS AN AMAZING PACE
96
*WORLD GRAND PRIX, 125CC CLASS

HMM...
SO HERE HE IS AT LAST.
AAAAAAAAAHHHH
YOU CAN SEE HIS HAIR A MILE AWAY!
YEAH
HONDA
HEY, I KNOW
HER HUSBAND USED TO BE A GP RIDER, TOO. HE'S COACHING THIS RACE
TEAM KATAYAMA, RIGHT?
WE'RE FRIENDS WITH ONE OF THE RIDERS. REI KASHINO
WHAT?
96 IS IN THE PIT
IT'S REI!

THEY'RE GOING UNRELIEVABLY FAST
THEY'RE ALL BEING SUCKED IN BY THE WORKS MACHINES.
I HOPE THEY DON'T SCREW UP REI'S PACING
THERE'S NO CHANCE OF THAT
HE'LL BE THE ONE SCREWING THEIR PACING UP!

96
PIAA
CHECK IT OUT!
96 IS PULLING APART
DAMN!
DOES HE PLAN ON BUSTING THAT SPEED ALL THE WAY TO THE 130R?

HONDA
WHOA!
HIS BIKE S ALMOST ON THE GROUND!
HE'S REALLY GOING FOR IT!
IT'S SO POWER FUL!

LOOKS GOOD
HE'S DOING WAY BETTER THAN WE'D EVEN HOPED.
IF HE KEEPS IT UP, A RANKING FINISH MIGHT NOT JUST BE A DREAM.
HMM...
CHECK OUT THE TAIL-SLIDE. CLASSIC AMERICAN RIDING STYLE.
RE!!!!
GO!!!

Suzuka 8hours
YOU KNOW...
JUST BECAUSE I WAS FAST DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING
I MEAN, WHO CARES?
GUYS WHO DON'T RACE THINK IT'S IDIOTIC, MAKING ALL THAT NOISE...
TO YOUR MOTHER...
I'M PROBABLY NO DIFFERENT FROM THE GUY WHO KILLED YOUR DAD

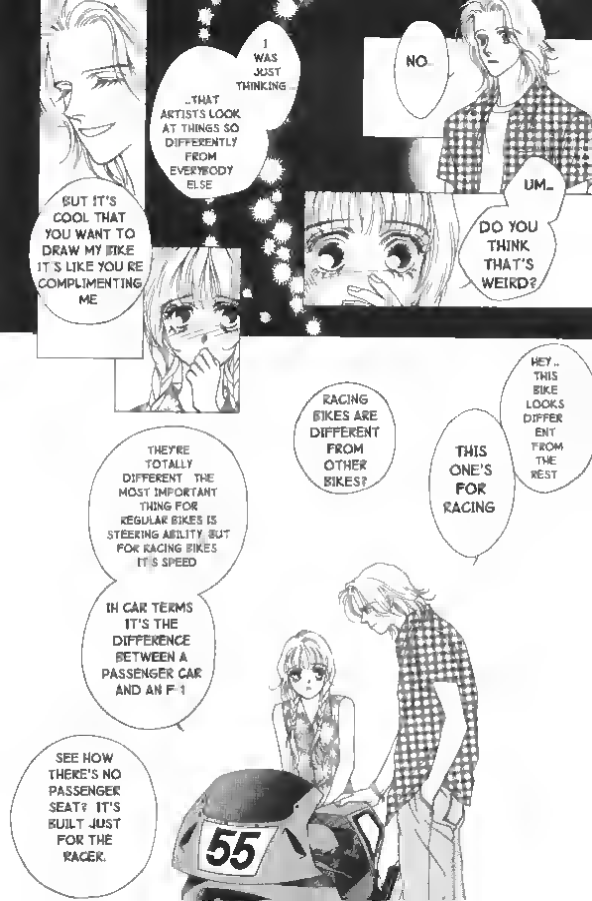
THIS WORLD YOU'RE SO TAKEN WITH.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DIDN'T GET IT EITHER AT FIRST
BUT...
DON'T SAY THAT!
I GOT IT WHEN I SAW YOU ON THE CIRCUIT
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO... ...CAN DRAW A PICTURE.
THE DRAWING MAY BE AWKWARD, BUT ANYONE CAN DO IT
THAT'S A HOLY PLACE
BUT...

96 WASN'T ON THE WORKS TEAM, WAS HE?
I THOUGHT HE WAS ON HONDA'S SATELLITE TEAM
SUZUKA
HOLY SHIT! THE FIRST RIDER, KASHINO IS ONLY SEVENTEEN!
ARE YOU KIDDING!? HE'S STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!
I KNOW, RIGHT!?
BY THE WAY, ISN'T KASHINO
...ONLY A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE CAN RIDE ON THE CIRCUIT
YOU AREN'T ALLOWED IF YOU DO THINGS HALF-ASSED
IN EXCHANGE FOR RISKING THEIR LIVES, THE CHOSEN FEW GET TO RIDE...
THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN RANKING IN THE SECOND GROUP...
NUMBER 96 HAS SUDDENLY COME UP IN THE RANKS AFTER TWO AMAZING LAPS!!

NO SHIT!? SO HE WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH BACK THEN?
WASN'T THE GUY WHO WON THE 4 ENDURANCE THREE YEARS AGO NAMED KASHINO TOO?
H...HEY I THINK THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT REI!
HE WRECKED AFTER THAT AND THEY DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD BE COMING BACK...
THIS IS GETTING PRETTY GOOD!
GO, KASHIHO!
NUMBER 96 MOVES UP TO SEVENTH PLACE!!
HE'S COMING UP ON THE FIRST GROUP!
VROOMMM
5
96
JUNOA

KIRA?
KIRA...
I'M GOING OUT SHOPPING
STAY HERE WHILE I'M GONE, OKAY?

HEY, COULD I SKETCH YOUR MOTORCYCLE SOMETIME?
?
SURE
BUT WOULD THAT MAKE A GOOD PICTURE?
YEAH...
I'D NEVER REALLY NOTICED BEFORE.
BUT MOTORCYCLES CAN BE VERY SENSUAL EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE MADE OF METAL


BUT IT'S COOL THAT YOU WANT TO DRAW MY BIKE IT'S LIKE YOU RE COMPLIMENTING ME
I WAS JUST THINKING
..THAT ARTISTS LOOK AT THINGS SO DIFFERENTLY FROM EVERYBODY ELSE
NO.
UM..
DO YOU THINK THAT'S WEIRD?
HEY.. THIS BIKE LOOKS DIFFER ENT FROM THE REST
RACING BIKES ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER BIKES?
THIS ONE'S FOR RACING
THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR REGULAR BIKES IS STEERING ABILITY BUT FOR RACING BIKES IT'S SPEED
IN CAR TERMS IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PASSENGER CAR AND AN F-1
SEE HOW THERE'S NO PASSENGER SEAT? IT'S BUILT JUST FOR THE RACER.
55

55
UM...
COULD I TRY GETTING ON IT?
NO WAY! THE HANDLEBARS ARE THIS FAR UP?
I'LL GET STUCK!
HA HA
IT'S ADJUSTED FOR ME SO IT PROBABLY FEELS EVEN HIGHER THAN IT NORMALLY WOULD
WOW.
THIS BIKE REALLY IS MADE JUST FOR SPEED.
HEY, KIRA...
WHY DID YOU WANT TO DRAW ME?

WHEN YOU FIRST ASKED ME TO MODEL FOR YOU I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO HIT ON ME
I WAS PRETTY FLATTERED
BUT WHEN I ACTUALLY STARTED MODELING FOR YOU THERE WAS NO SEXUAL VIBE THERE AT ALL.
PLUS, YOUR EYES GOT SCARY
YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE IT DO YOU?
AND I'M LIKE, "WHOA YOU'RE REALLY CONCENTRATING..."
SERIOUSLY, WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DRAW SOMEONE LIKE ME?
WHEN I'M BEING LOOKED AT WITH THOSE EYES, THERE'S NO ROOM FOR CONVERSATION
WHEN YOU DRAW, YOUR EYES ARE SO INTENSE

REMEMBER HOW YOU ONCE SAID..
THAT BEFORE YOU REALIZED WHAT YOU WERE DOING, YOU WERE TALKING TO ME ..
55
WELL..
I ASKED YOU TO MODEL BEFORE I KNEW IT, TOO.

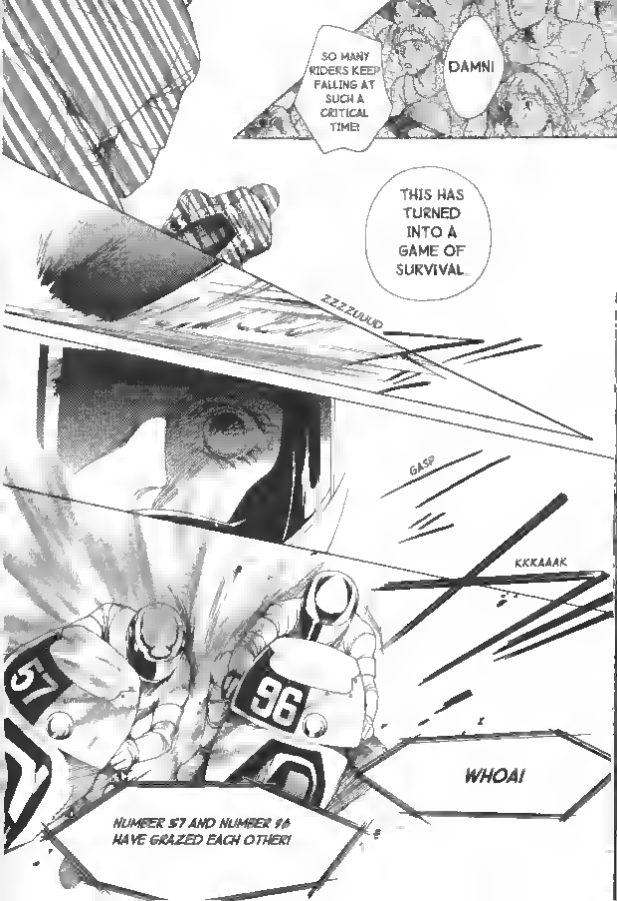
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I
WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU

NUMBER 96'S AGGRESSIVE CHASE CONTINUES...
FOUR HOURS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE RACE STARTED, AND THE RACE IS ABOUT TO GO INTO THE SECOND PHASE.
HE'S CLOSING THE GAP WITH EACH LAP!
THAT GUY'S INCREDIBLE!
HE KEEPS CLOSING THE GAP, AND HE'S IN FIFTH PLACE NOW.
WAY TO GO AGAINST THE WORKS GUYS
BUST IT OUT TO THE END!
GO, RE!!!!!
NUMBER 96 IS IN THE PIT.
あっ
OH...
AWWW JUST WHEN IT WAS GETTING GOOD... THEY'RE SWITCHING OFF...

VVVRRRRRR
THERE'S AN OIL SPILL ON THE FAR BANK.
GAS TANK IS FULL
THAT MEANS EACH RIDER HAS FINISHED TWO RUNS.
THIS IS THE FOURTH SWITCHOFF FOR NUMBER 96.
WHAAAT!? ANOTHER IV!?
REI, HURRY UP AND GET YOUR IV DRIP.
KATATATA
THE SETTINGS ON THE BIKE ARE PRETTY HARSH, SINCE WE GEARED IT FOR REI'S AGGRESSIVE RIDING.
IT'S KYOKO I'M WORRIED ABOUT
THAT'S REI, ALL RIGHT!
HE'S FULL OF ENERGY
CRASHING
THAT SHIT HURTS, MAN

HOW DOES HE DO IT? ESPECIALLY IN THIS DAMN HEAT...
I'M GETTING EXHAUSTED JUST WATCHING HIM
YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO GET HOT WATCHING HIM.
THE RIDERS' BODY TEMPERATURES ARE ALREADY HIGH FROM ALL THE STRESS
AND THEY'RE COMPLETELY FOCUSED ON RACING.
THIS IS THE CRUCIAL MOMENT.
YEAH...
EVERYONE UPS THEIR SPEED WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN AND THE GROUND COOLS OFF

THE GUY BEHIND US SURE KNOWS A LOT
EVEN IF YOU'RE RIDING UP FRONT- IF YOU FALL, THAT'S IT
MEDIA
GGGR
WHOA.... A FALL ON THE HAIRPIN TURN!
IT'S BEEN FALL AFTER FALL AT THIS POINT! THE RANKINGS WILL CHANGE DRAMATICALLY.


SO MANY RIDERS KEEP FALLING AT SUCH A CRITICAL TIME!
DAMN!
THIS HAS TURNED INTO A GAME OF SURVIVAL.
ZZZUUUD
GASP
KKKAAAK
57
96
WHOA!
NUMBER 57 AND NUMBER 96 HAVE GRAZED EACH OTHER!

NUMBER 57 SLIPPED ON THE OIL ON THE FAR BANK, AND NUMBER 96 HAS BEEN DRAGGED INTO IT
WHAT BAD LUCK! NUMBER 96, WHO'D BEEN SMOOTHLY FINISHING HER LAPS UNTIL NOW, HAS FALLEN!
WHHAAAAAT?
GRIP
NUMBER 96 HAS PICKED UP HER BIKE AND IS TRYING TO SOMEHOW RESTART IT.
SHIT_
THUD
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE PIT!
96
HONDA

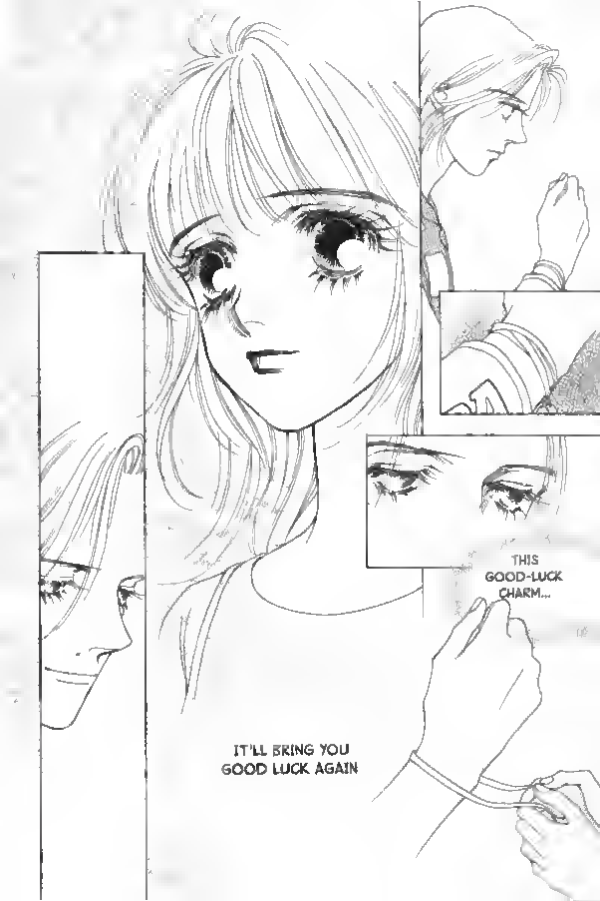
NUMBER 96 IS BACK ON TRACK!
KET'S WAITING!!
96
AW, MAN, NOW HE'S DROPPED OUT OF THE RANKINGS.
ROOAR
CLAP CLAP CLAP
HE WAS JUST CATCHING UP TO THEM...
96
KYOKO!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
OOOH...

KYOKO..
YOU'RE DONE.
BAD NEWS
YOUR FINGER'S BROKEN
NO!
I CAN STILL RIDE!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN HANDLE A BIKE WITH THAT HAND!
BUT..
GO COOL OFF THERE ARE THREE MORE HOURS 'TIL THE FINISH
I'LL RIDE

I'LL RIDE THE REST OF THE THREE HOURS MYSELF
MICHELIN
RUN
HONDA
WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE IS THAT?
I'VE ONLY RIDDEN TWO HOURS SO FAR.
IT'D JUST BE EXTENDING THE ORIGINAL FOUR HOURS TO FIVE
BUT...
THAT'S A PENALTY
THE 8-ENDURANCE RULES ARE THAT ONE RIDER CAN'T RACE MORE THAN HALF THE RACE.
THE PENALTY WOULD BE A LAP OR AT WORST, DISQUALIFICATION.

THEN SIGNAL TO ME JUST BEFORE MY PART IS UP.
I'LL COME BACK TO THE PIT.
.....
MR. KATA YAMA..
IF YOU CLEAR 75% OF THAT, OR 158 LAPS, IT'D BE CONSIDERED FINISHING
SAY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LAPS FOR THE WINNER IS 210
IN ANY CASE, LET'S JUST DO WHAT-EVER WE CAN.
REI!

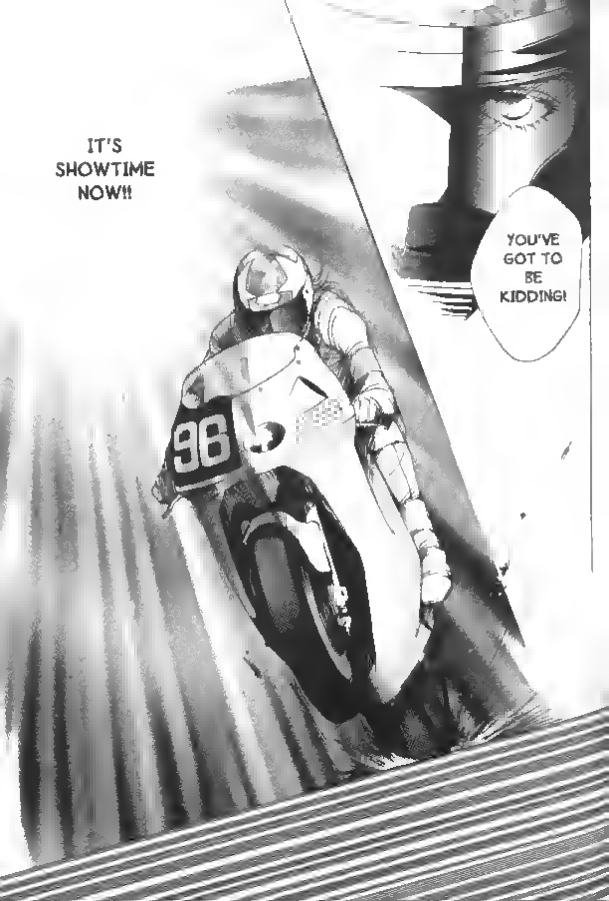
I'M SORRY.
I'M TAKING OVER FROM HERE
THERE'S NO REASON TO RACE THE ENTIRE ALLOTTED TIME.
IT'LL BE FINE IF YOU JUST PACE YOURSELF OVER AN HOUR AND A HALF
EMERGENCY REPAIRS OF SPOT DAMAGE.
SWITCH OUT THE FRONT TIRE.
JUST DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD


THIS GOOD-LUCK CHARM...
IT'LL BRING YOU GOOD LUCK AGAIN

HONDA
I KNOW, MAN.
VRRROOM
DON'T TAKE ANY STUPID RISKS!
LISTEN, REI.
THE GOAL IS TO FINISH THE RACE.
REPAIRS ARE FINISHED!!
96

OMO TERZO DESIGN
HONDA
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN NEVER RIDE AGAIN
THIS INJURY'S NOTHING
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
I'M JUST FRUSTRATED
WHY WASN'T I ABLE TO AVOID THAT BACK THERE?

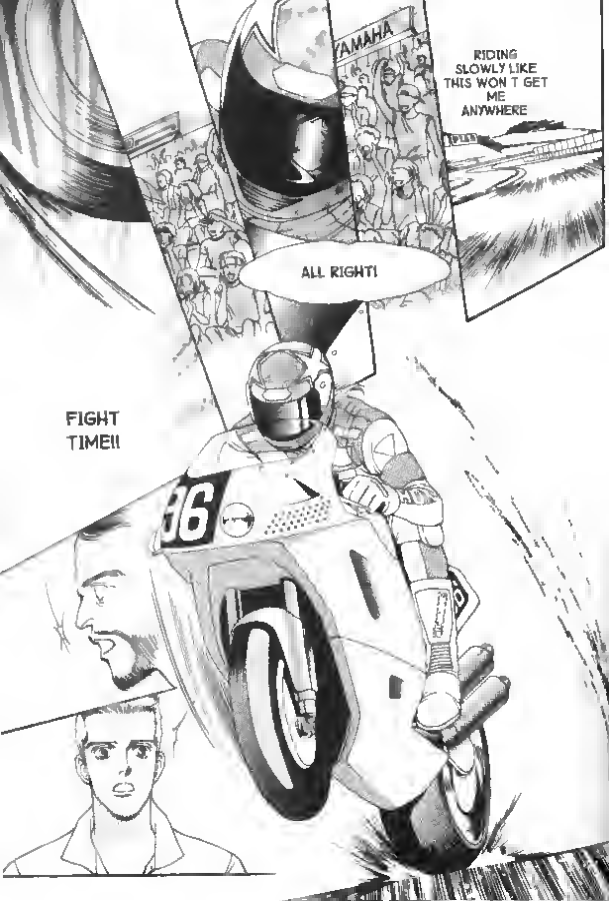
NUMBER 96 IS OUT OF THE PIT!
KATAYAMA IS OUT AND RIDER #1, KASHINO, IS IN
VROOAAARR!
THERE WON'T BE ANY MIRACLES.
IT'S AMAZING
AS SOON AS KASHINO COMES OUT, THE CROWD GOES WILD.
MAYBE THEY'RE EXPECTING A DRAMATIC TURN-AROUND.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
NO MATTER HOW HARD KASHINO TRIES THERE'S NOT MUCH CHANCE HE CAN CATCH UP TO THE TOP GROUP.


IT'S SHOWTIME NOW!!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
98

IT'LL BE OVER IN THREE MORE HOURS...
4:30...

MARS

PLEASE LET HIM BE SAFE.
GOD...


YAMAHA
RIDING SLOWLY LIKE THIS WON T GET ME ANYWHERE
ALL RIGHT!
FIGHT TIME!!
86

WHOA
HE TURNED A FIGURE 8 INTO A WHEELIE!
HOW'S HE GONNA MAKE THE NEXT BANK?
CASANO
HONDA
96
YANK
96

HOLY SHIT!
THIS IS GETTING ME PUMPED!!
GAK
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
THAT'S SO DANGEROUS
WHOOOO!
HE'S GOT HIS THROTTLE WIDE OPEN.. ONE FALSE MOVE AND HE'LL FLIP OVER.
IT'S LIKE A RODEO FASTER!
SHIT
HE'S GONE

GO!!
REI, SLOW DOWN!
HE'S GUNNING TOO HARD
PUT THE SAVE SIGN OUT
96 IS GUNNING IT!
HOLY SHIT!
HE PLEW PAST THREE BIKES!
78
96
96
P 16

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT TAKES OUT OF YOU TO RIDE LIKE THAT?
WHAT AN IDIOT
GRUNT
WHOOHOO!!
POP ANOTHER WHEELIE!
GO FOR IT, REI!
HE'S NOT PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS
IT'S... NO USE.
VVVVRRRRRRR
RRRRRRMMMMM

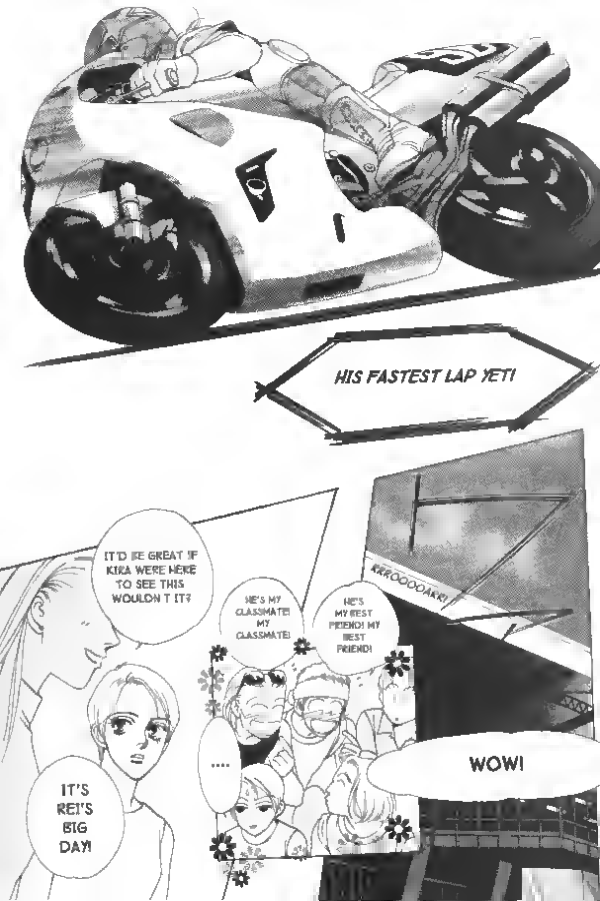
DAMN!
HE'S A HAIR AWAY FROM FALLING
HE'S PRACTICALLY PINNING THE BIKE.
HOW COULD HE BE SO CRAZY?!
96
THAT'S NOT CIRCUIT RACING ANYMORE.
IT'S A DAMN CIRCUS.
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN RIDE THE REMAINING ONE AND-A-HALF HOURS LIKE THAT!
HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT CATCHING UP TO THE TOP GROUP
I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS THAT STUPID...

AT THIS RATE NOT ONLY WILL REI NOT FINISH THE RACE, BUT HE'S ALSO AT MAJOR RISK OF FALLING AND IF HE FALLS IT'LL BE OVER IN A SECOND
WHAT, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS NOT FALL, RIGHT?
98
34
I JUST HAVE TO RIDE PAST THEM, RIGHT?
MR KATAYAMA--
REI'S TIME...
NIPPONDENSO
TIME
CAR NO
NUMBER 98, KASHINO...
FASTEST LAP, 2 MINUTES, 10 SECONDS AND 98

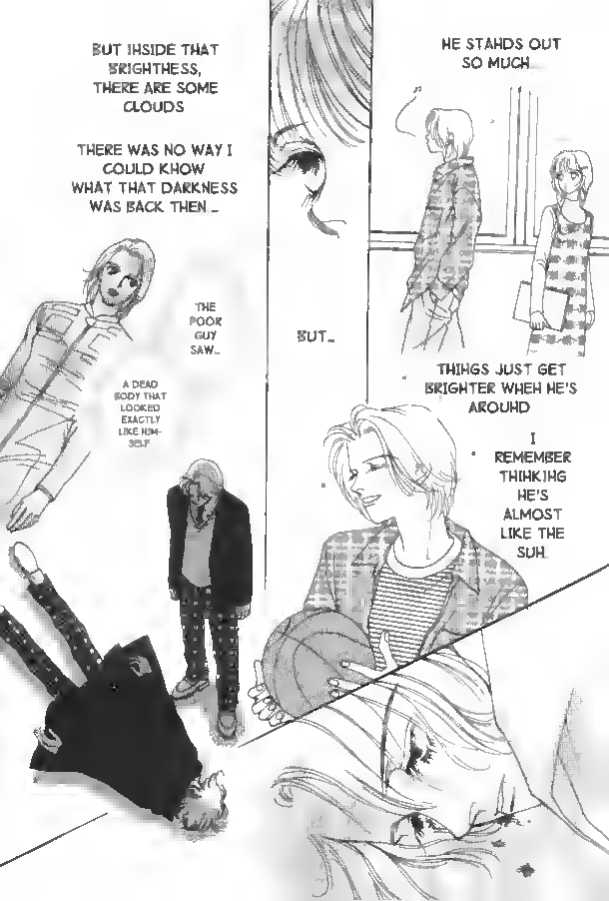
AFTER A FALL AND A HUGE SETBACK, NUMBER 96 IS BACK IN 8TH PLACE
96
HEY, IT'S ME!
I'M ON THE SCREEN!!

AWESOME!
96
AMAZING!
AT THIS RATE, HE COULD REALLY CATCH UP TO THE TOP!
EVEN COMPARED TO HONDA'S RVF/RC45 THE WORKS TEAM IS A NEWER MODEL.
COMPARED TO THAT KASHINO'S TEAM IS OUTMODED HE'S HANDICAPPED.
MISS KYOKO...
IMPOSSIBLE.
EVEN IF SHE WAS IN THE GP, THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE TOO TOUGH FOR A WOMAN.
AND WITH THE #2 RIDER, KYOKO, I'M SURE THEY'LL BE IN A LOWER RANK.
EVEN IF HE IS RIDING ON A WORKS MOTORCYCLE.

NUMBER 96, KASHINO, STILL HASN'T SLOWED DOWN
I TOLD YOU I'LL BE FINE. IT'S NOTHING.
PLEASE JUST GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
WE'VE ONLY PUT YOUR FINGER IN A TEMPORARY SPLINT
AT LEAST LET ME STAY ON THE CIRCUIT...
...UNTIL REI FINISHES HIS RACE.
IT'S AS IF HE'S DOING A TIME TRIAL.
ALL HIS LAPS HAVE BEEN IN THE TEENS
H...HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE FROM SCHOOL.
HE'S A YEAR BEHIND ME AT SCHOOL
AND HE'S ONLY SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD... THAT'S CRAZY!


HIS FASTEST LAP YET!
KRROOOOARR!
WOW!
....
IT'S REI'S BIG DAY!
IT'D BE GREAT IF KIRA WERE HERE TO SEE THIS WOULDN'T IT?
HE'S MY CLASSMATE! MY CLASSMATE!
HE'S MY BEST FRIEND! MY BEST FRIEND!

I KNEW WHO REI WAS WHEN SCHOOL FIRST STARTED
I HOPE THIS ENERGY CARRIES ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO
YEAH...

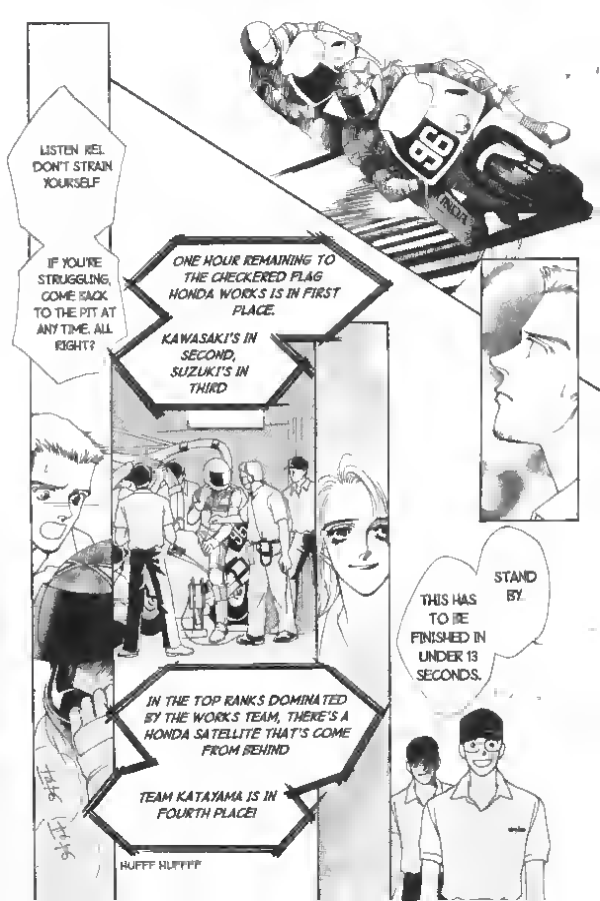

BUT INSIDE THAT BRIGHTNESS, THERE ARE SOME CLOUDS
THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD KNOW WHAT THAT DARKNESS WAS BACK THEN...
THE POOR GUY SAW...
A DEAD BODY THAT LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE HIM-SELF
BUT...
HE STANDS OUT SO MUCH...
THINGS JUST GET BRIGHTER WHEN HE'S AROUND
I REMEMBER THINKING HE'S ALMOST LIKE THE SUN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT STUPID?
YOU'RE RIDING LIKE A MANIAC. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL LAST ANOTHER HOUR AT THIS PACE?
I TOLD YOU I'M FINE. I'M CONFIDENT
PLEASE GO AHEAD WITH THE SEVENTH GAS CHARGE!
THE CLOUDS I SEE INSIDE YOU
ARE THE DESPAIR THAT WAS BORN THE SECOND SEI DIED...
TWO HOURS LEFT. IT'S THE SIXTH PIT STOP FOR THE RIDERS.
ALL OF US WHO CASUALLY GO THROUGH LIFE WILL PERISH ONE DAY AND DISAPPEAR INTO THE DARKNESS...
YOU FELT THAT MORE THAN ANYONE
GAS CHARGE DONE!
TIRES OKAY!
GO!!

THE BADGE ON HIS ARM IS RED
IS THAT THE #1 RIDER KASHINO!?
96
WHOA! NUMBER 96 DIDN'T SWITCH RIDERS
IT LOOKS LIKE TEAM KATAYAMA IS HAVING SOME TROUBLE.
KYOKO MUST'VE BEEN HURT DURING THAT LAST FALL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THEY CAN'T?
THE RULES FOR THE 8-ENDURANCE STATE THAT ONE RIDER CANNOT RIDE FOR MORE THAN HALF OF THE RACE.
KASHINO STILL HAS AN HOUR AND FORTY MINUTES LEFT TO GO.
IT'S OVER...
TEAM KATAYAMA CAN'T WIN NOW.
!

MR. KATAYAMA
WILL THERE BE ANOTHER PIT STOP?
NO. THIS IS THE LAST.
EVEN IF HE RACES CLOSE TO HIS FULL ALLOTTED TIME, AS A PENALTY, HE'LL HAVE ONE LAP TAKEN AWAY
OR AT WORST BE DISQUALIFIED
EITHER WAY, THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD RACE TWO MORE HOURS LIKE THIS.
WHAT!?
DON'T!
THE NEXT TIME HE COMES IN, IT'S OVER
KYOKO
PLEASE, JUST LET HIM RIDE OUT HIS ALLOTTED TIME
THAT'S ASSURD
WHAT'S GOING TO COME OUT OF LETTING HIM TORTURE HIS BODY?
HE'LL BE FINE. THAT GUY CAN DO IT

NUMBER 96 HAS HIS FASTEST LAP YET.
ROARR
IT'S NOT AS EASY AS THAT.
WHAT IF HE PUSHES HIMSELF TOO HARD AND REACHES A POINT OF NO RETURN?
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE BODY
NOT TO MENTION LIFE...
WHAT UNBELIEVABLE SPEED!! HE'S GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO A HIGHER RANK.
HE'S IN HOT PURSUIT OF ALL THE RIDERS AHEAD
HE'S A MAN POSSESSED!
HE WANTS TO RACE AND FIGHT
AKITAKA, YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW THAT IS.
HE'S JUST PASSED YAMAHA'S WORKS MACHINE AND IS NOW IN FOURTH PLACE!


LISTEN REI. DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF
IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING, COME BACK TO THE PIT AT ANY TIME. ALL RIGHT?
ONE HOUR REMAINING TO THE CHECKERED FLAG HONDA WORKS IS IN FIRST PLACE.
KAWASAKI'S IN SECOND, SUZUKI'S IN THIRD
STAND BY.
THIS HAS TO BE FINISHED IN UNDER 13 SECONDS.
IN THE TOP RANKS DOMINATED BY THE WORKS TEAM, THERE'S A HONDA SATELLITE THAT'S COME FROM BEHIND
TEAM KATAYAMA IS IN FOURTH PLACE!
HUFFF HUFFFF

MR. KATAYAMA...
I THOUGHT HE'D BE EXHAUSTED
IF HE CAN DISH OUT THAT MUCH ABUSE, HE'S MORE THAN FINE
GAS IS OKAY
SHUT UP! I'M TRYING TO FOCUS AND YOU'RE SPOUTING OFF UNNECESSARY SHIT
GO!!
YOU BRAT!
98

THEY'RE THE COLORS OF THE SUNSET...
THE BLAZING SHADES OF A SUNSET THAT BURN JUST BEFORE DARKNESS SETS IN

WHY DO YOU GO THROUGH ALL THAT JUST TO RACE?
I GUESS ASKING THAT IS THE SAME THING AS ASKING WHY I DRAW
PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M ALIVE... THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT
I SENSE COLORS IN YOU
THEY'RE STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL...
...AND SAD
I WONDERED WHAT YOUR COLORS WERE FOR A LONG TIME

LIGHT ON
YOU SAID IT WAS NOTHING,
BUT THERE'S NO ONE AS ALIVE AS YOU.
THE TOP RIDER IS NUMBER 11. HE'S ONE MINUTE AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE. HE'S BASICALLY RIDING ALONE!
GASP
THE SECOND GROUP IS REALLY NECK AND NECK. IT'S A BRUTAL RACE FOR SECOND PLACE!
ALL RIGHT!
A CRASH!
WHOOOOAAA! THE THREE MOTORCYCLES HAVE CRASHED!

LUCKY!
WOW..
LOOKS LIKE NUMBER 96 HAS FOUND A CLEAR OPENING AND AVOIDED THE CRASH
HUH?
REI'S GOT IT!
IT'S LIKE THE CRASHED BIKES CLEARED A PATH FOR HIM.
YOU JUST HAVE TO GO FOR IT AT TIMES LIKE THIS
PLEASE, KIRA!! PROTECT ME!
THERE'S BEEN A MAJOR TURN-AROUND IN THE LAST STRETCH. NUMBER 96 IS IN SECOND PLACE!!

KIRA, YOU'RE STILL DRAWING?
DINNER'S READY.
I'LL EAT LATER. I'M NOT HUNGRY NOW.
20 MORE MINUTES.
FINALLY, ONLY TWENTY MINUTES TO THE END.
NIPPONDENSO
THE TOP RACER AND THE RIDER IN SECOND PLACE ARE MAKING THE SAME LAP
THE TOP BIKE IS A WORKS, THE SECOND IS A SATELLITE. BOTH OF THEM ARE HONDA'S MACHINES!
THE TIME DIFFERENCE IS FORTY SECONDS. LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GREAT FIGHT!

HE'S DONE WELL...
ALL RIGHT THE NEXT LAP WILL BE HIS LAST ONE.
PUT OUT THE PIT-IN SIGN.
IN FIVE MINUTES, REI'S TIME LIMIT WILL BE UP.
IT REALLY IS UN-BELIEVABLE...
HE'S RACED THIS FAST FOR TWO HOURS AND FORTY MINUTES.
AND HE STILL KEEPS CLOSING THE GAP
HA HA... THAT WOULD BE PRETTY AMAZING, ALRIGHT
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO SEE HOW CLOSE HE COULD GET AFTER THIS
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A 99% CHANCE THAT HRC'S GOING TO WIN.
11

WHOOOAAA!
BUZZBUZZ
NUMBER 11, WHO'S BEEN HOLDING STEADY IN FIRST PLACE, HAS COASTED OUT ON THE FINAL CORNER!!
AFTER COMING THIS FAR, THERE'S AN UNEXPECTED ACCIDENT.
TEAM
DON'T STRESS. STAY CALM.
HE'S PICKED UP HIS BIKE AND IS TRYING TO RETURN TO THE TRACK.
BUT THAT'S GOT TO HURT.
AND NOW...
FROM BEHIND...

NUMBER 961
ROAAAAAAR
96
KASHINO HAS ARRIVED!
I SEE HIM!

THOSE ARE THE TOP RACER'S HEADLIGHTS.
REI!
IT'S TIME TO COME TO THE PIT!
GET IN HERE!
GO, REI!
SHIT!
HE ACCELERATED?!

AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR, TWO HONDA BIKES GO HEAD TO HEAD!
THAT IDIOT IS SERIOUSLY GOING TO TRY TO RACE THE WORKS BIKE.
IT'S SUDDEN DEATH!
FIFTEEN MINUTES TO THE CHECKERED FLAG
GET BACK HERE, REI!
THE WORKS FLYING AHEAD..
THE SATELLITE IN HOT PURSUIT..
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE DEVELOPMENT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

REI..
YOU IDIOT!
GO
RIDE ALL YOU WANT
WHAT KIND OF GUY IS THIS? HIS VICTORY IS GONE
HIS INSTINCT TO FIGHT HAS TAKEN OVER
THE WINNER'S PLATFORM MEANS NOTHING TO HIM
KASHINO HAS THE TOP RACER IN RANGE NOW
TAIL TO NOSE!

DAMN...
HE HAS ME BEAT ON THE STRAIGHTAWAY.
THE NEW MODELS REALLY ARE AMAZING.
OH NO...
EVEN IF HE CLOSES IN ON THE CORNERS, HE LOSES HIM ON THE STRAIGHT AWAYS.
BUT...
IT'S STILL PEOPLE CONTROLLING THEM
OH, MY GOD!
THEY JUST TOUCHED!
FORGET THIS IT'S TOO SCARY
SKREE
IT'S A GOOD THING KIRA DIDN'T COME.
SHE'D BE CRYING IF SHE WERE WATCHING THIS
ALTHOUGH, THEN AGAIN...
I HAVE A FEELING SHE WOULDN'T CRY.

THAT'S WHY REI CHOSE HER.
IT'S A DEAD HEAT. NEITHER RIDER WILL BUDGE.
WITH THE TWO RIDERS STILL HEAD TO HEAD, WE'VE COME TO THE FINAL LAP!
THIS ISN'T GOOD
A YAMAHA IS RIGHT BEHIND THEM...
...AND TWO HONDAS ARE BATTLING IT OUT!
WHAT IS KATAYAMA UP TO?
Castrol
A SATELLITE SHOULD ACT LIKE A SATELLITE AND KNOW HIS PLACE!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FACE THE WORKS TEAM!
IF THE TWO CRASH NOW, HONDA WILL BE DESTROYED.
THIS ISN'T GOOD, MR. KATAYAMA.

THIS IS THE FINAL STRETCH!
WHAT CAN YOU DO?
NONE OF US UP HERE CAN DO ANYTHING
WHICH RIDER WILL GET TO THE CHECKERED FLAG FIRST?!
THEY'RE VERY CLOSE NOW.
namco
HERE THEY ARE!
THEY'RE COMING UP ON THE FINAL CORNER.
AND IN FIRST PLACE IS...

NUMBER 96, KASHINO!!!!
96
KLUNK
REI!
THE CHECKERED FLAG OF VICTORY HAS BEEN WAVED!

I WANT TO RIDE
ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO NOW!
REI!!!

HURRY UP AND GET HIS HELMET OFF...
IT'S OVER...
REI!
WAKE UP!
THE BIKE...
WHERE'S THE BIKE?
IT'S OKAY, REI...
IT'S OVER
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RACE ANYMORE...

WHAAAAAAT?
THERE'S BEEN A VIOLATION OF THE 8 HOUR ENDURANCE ROAD RACE RULES BY TEAM KATAYAMA..
WHICH, AFTER DELIBERATION, HAS BEEN DETERMINED AS GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION
SEIKO
I'M SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
I PROBABLY WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME THING IF I WERE YOU.
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T WIN THE RACE, I JUST COULDN'T TURN BACK.

CLAP CLAP CLAP
NICE RUN, KASHINO!
RRROAR
AGAINST A WORKS! GOOD GOING!
THAT WAS AWESOME!
YOU WERE THE FASTEST!
ONDA

KRAKK
PAT
SEIKO
7 38
Suzuka 8 hours

HEY, IT'S ME. I JUST GOT BACK TO TOKYO.
I'M ACTUALLY CALLING FROM A PHONE BOOTH BY YOUR HOUSE.
RERRING
RERRING
HUFF
HUFF

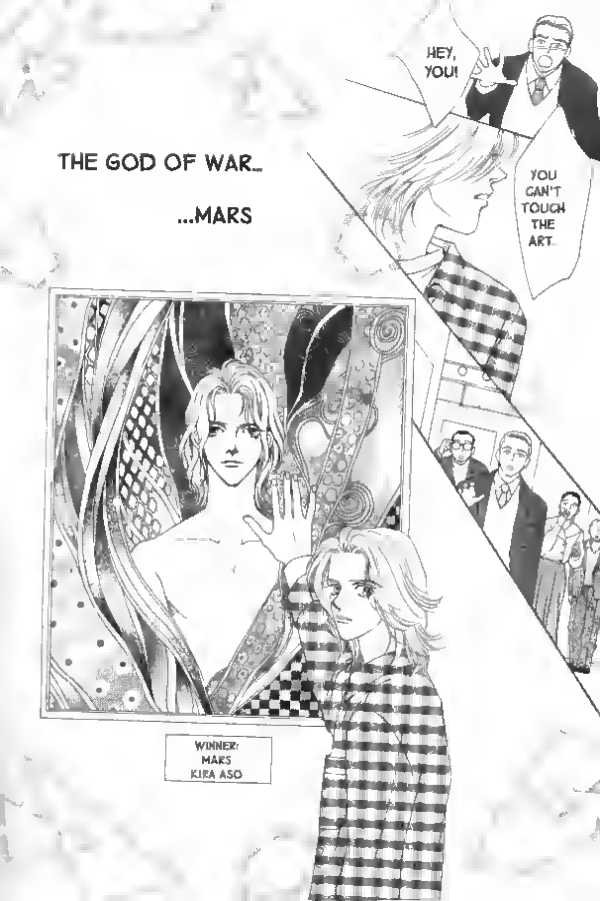
I WON! OR I WOULD HAVE IF I HADN'T BEEN DISQUALIFIED..
HOW WAS THE RACE?
D...
DID YOU KICK ANOTHER RIDER WHILE RACING OR SOMETHING?!
KLUD
THAT'S FUNNY!
NICE ONE.
I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL LATER.
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE NICE AND COOL.

IT'S ENOUGH JUST TO SEE YOUR SMILE
!
I LOST YOUR GOOD-LUCK CHARM...
I FELL REALLY HARD AT THE END
I WONDER IF THAT'S WHEN IT BROKE?
WERE YOU HURT?
NO, NOT AT ALL! THANKS TO THE CHARM AND YOUR LOVE...
HEE HEE HEE
IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH
JINKI GROUP 47TH ART EXHIBITION

I WON'T HIT YOU OR ANYTHING IF IT'S BAD..
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
WHY?
BECAUSE I'M KINDA SCARED TO LOOK AT A PAINTING WITH ITS SUBJECT STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME.
!
GO AND LOOK AT IT YOURSELF
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S JUST KIND OF EMBARRASSING
HMM...
OKAY, OKAY
I'LL GO CHECK IT OUT ON MY OWN.

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EXPRESS MY FEELINGS...
...ON A SINGLE CANVAS.
I ACTUALLY KIND OF REGRET TRYING TO PAINT YOU
...BUT
...I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF, EITHER.

「MARS
KIRA ASO
M-A-R-S
YOU KNOW, THE GOD OF FIGHTING
MARS?
THE PLANET?
THE GOD OF WAR!

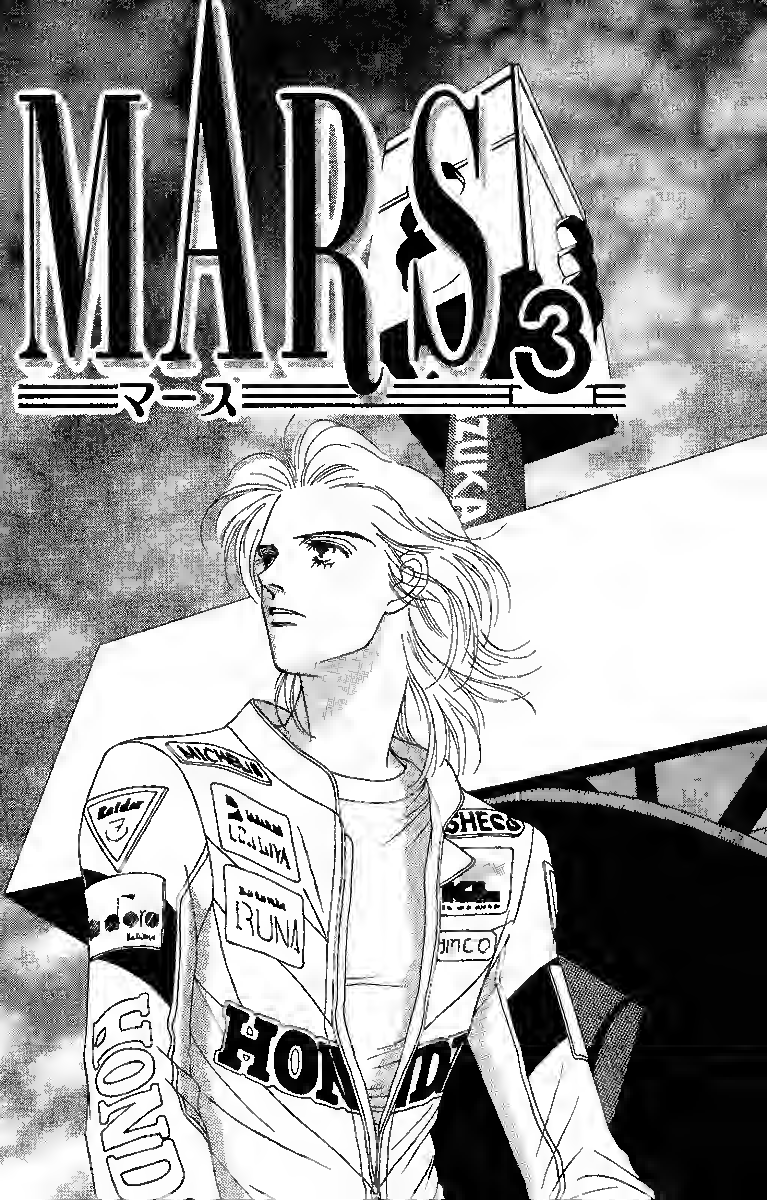

HEY, YOU!
YOU CAN'T TOUCH THE ART.
THE GOD OF WAR...
...MARS
WINNER:
MARS
KIRA ASO

DID YOU SEE IT?
YEAH
HOW WAS IT?
IT WAS GREAT! 'CAUSE YOU HAD A GREAT MODEL...
JUST KIDDING! THE ARTIST WAS GOOD, SO IT WAS AMAZING.
WHAT WAS AMAZING ABOUT IT?
UM...

THE PAINTING SEEMS LIKE IT'S ALIVE.
KIRA...
I'M SO GLAD I MET YOU!
FIRST OF ALL, THE COLORS WERE BEAUTIFUL.
AND?!
IT ALSO LOOKED LIKE THE INSIDE OF A HUMAN BODY...
...WITH CELLS AND VEINS JOSTLING EACH OTHER...
UMMM...
IT WAS A BIT LIKE IT'S OWN LITTLE UNIVERSE.
YOU KNOW...
...ACTIVATING AND REGENERATING

TO BE CONTINUED

MARS


MARS
3
マース
HONDA
MICHELIN
RUNA
HONDA

Volume 3

By Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES • TOKYO

LEGEND OF MARS

OUR STORY UP TO NOW...

KIRA STARTS CRUSHING HARD ON REI AFTER SHE SEES HIM SMOOCH A STATUE OF MARS IN THE SCHOOL ART STUDIO. (HOW SWEET!) MEANWHILE, EVER SINCE REI GOT A LOOK AT A SKETCH KIRA DID OF A MOTHER AND CHILD, HE CAN'T GET HER OFF HIS MIND. OVER TIME, THEY GROW CLOSER. ON THEIR FIRST DATE, KIRA FINDS OUT THAT REI HAD A TWIN BROTHER NAMED SEI WHO DIED RECENTLY. A FEW MINUTES LATER, SOMEONE JUMPS OFF A BUILDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF KIRA AND REI. WHEN REI STOPS BREATHING, KIRA GIVES HIM MOUTH-TO-MOUTH. KIRA WONDERS IF SEI'S DEATH HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS BROTHER'S WOUNDED SPIRIT. LATER, REI DECIDES TO GO BACK TO HIS OLD THERAPIST AT THE PSYCHOTHERAPY CENTER. WHAT ARE THE SECRETS OF HIS MYSTERIOUS PAST? WHAT DOES REI HAVE TO HIDE?!

REI KASHIWAGI:
HE'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WITH A PASSION FOR MOTORCYCLE RACING. HE'S ALWAYS AWAY BY KIRA'S DRAWINGS. HIS TWIN BROTHER, SEI, RECENTLY PASSED AWAY.

TATSUYA:
REI'S BEST FRIEND. HE USED TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR KIRA, BUT NOW DOES HE FEEL NOW?

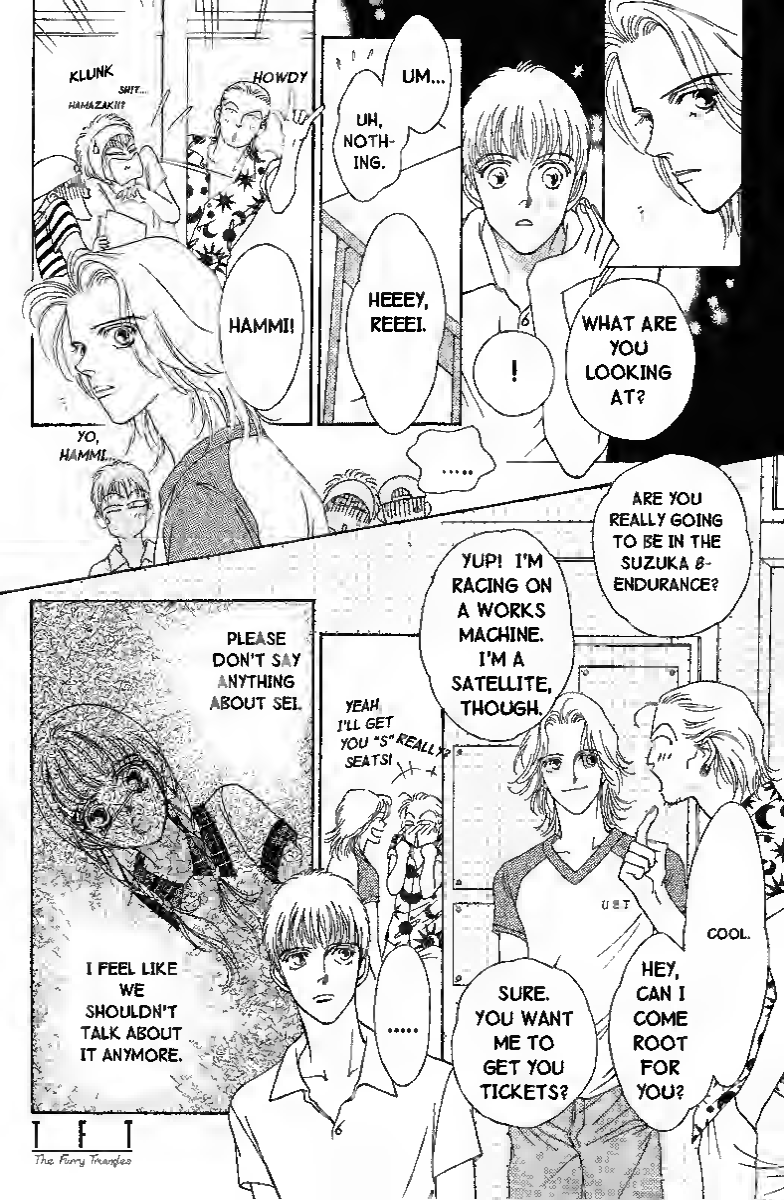
KIRA ASO:
SHE'S A SHY STUDENT WITH AN AMAZING TALENT FOR ART. SHE ASKS REI TO MODEL FOR HER AND BEGINS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM. BUT SHE'S MORE ART MORE WORRIED ABOUT HIS DARK SIDE.

KUREHAWA:
HE'S IN THE ART CLUB WITH KIRA. HE COPIES KIRA'S ARTWORK.

THUMP
REI
REI...
REI!?

MY LIFE'S GOAL IS TO BE THE GRAND PRIX 500 WORLD CHAMPION!
"RE!!!"
KLUD
YES!
GRIP
HUH...?
YOU IDIOT!
YOU'D BETTER STUDY A LITTLE BEFORE YOU BECOME THE WORLD CHAMPION!
OR I WON'T LET YOU GRADUATE!
2-B
HA HA HA HA

MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS BROTHER'S DEATH...
YOU DIDN'T KNOW? THAT REI'S BROTHER, SEI, DIED?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, DUDE?
YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO STUDY
HEY TATSUYA, WHAT PAGE ARE WE ON NOW?
HEY, MY SWEETIE WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE
THOUGHT MAYBE I'D STUDY TO KEEP FROM DOZING OFF.
IT'S NOT 'DOZING OFF' IN YOUR CASE.
IT'S SLEEP... DEEP SLEEP.
DAMN, LOOK AT THIS UNTOUCHED TEXTBOOK.
WITH MY LATE-NIGHT CONSTRUCTION JOB AND MY WEEKEND RACING, I'M REALLY BEAT.
WHAT CAN I DO?
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THEY WERE TWINS...


KLUNK
SHIT...
HANAZAKI!?
HOWDY
HAMMI!
YO, HAMMI...
UM...
UH, NOTH-ING.
HEEEY, REEEI.
.....
!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE IN THE SUZUKA 8-ENDURANCE?
YUP! I'M RACING ON A WORKS MACHINE. I'M A SATELLITE, THOUGH.
YEAH I'LL GET YOU "S" REALLY SEATS!
COOL.
HEY, CAN I COME ROOT FOR YOU?
SURE. YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU TICKETS?
.....
PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT SEI.
I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

Art Studio
IT DOESN'T SEEM...
...LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG.
WHY DON'T YOU THINK IT OVER SOME MORE, KIRA?
IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE IF YOU DIDN'T GO TO COLLEGE
BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU AND KURASAWA ARE MY TWO BEST STUDENTS.
YOU'RE BOTH GUARANTEED TO SUCCEED IN ART. YET, NEITHER ONE OF YOU IS GOING TO COLLEGE
WHAT IN THE WORLD!?
THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU DON'T HAVE A FATHER, DO YOU?

KURASAWA'S NOT GOING TO COLLEGE?
SIGH
HE WITHDREW HIS APPLICATION...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO JUMP OFF THAT BUILDING. BUT HEY, HE SURVIVED-
HE SHOULD THINK POSITIVE.
I GUESS MAYBE HE'D JUST REACHED HIS LIMITS.
THERE ARE EARLY BLOOMERS AND LATE BLOOMERS
HE WAS DEFINITELY AN EARLY BLOOMER.
BUT KIRA..
I JUST KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO COME INTO YOUR OWN.
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COLLEGE, WHY DON'T YOU AT LEAST ENTER THE ART CONTEST?

WHAT DID KANEKO WANT?
DID SHE BUG YOU ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE AGAIN?
I'M THINKING ABOUT DOING IT.
UM...NO
SHE WANTS ME TO ENTER SOMETHING IN THE ART CONTEST.
ONCE I GRADUATE AND GET INTO THE REAL WORLD, I WON'T BE AS FREE AS I AM NOW...
SO I SHOULD PAINT SOMETHING AMAZING WHILE I CAN.
WOW.
UST
I JUST WANT TO PAINT YOU.
!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY STUPID AWARDS.
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN. YOU'LL PROBABLY WIN SOME GREAT AWARD.

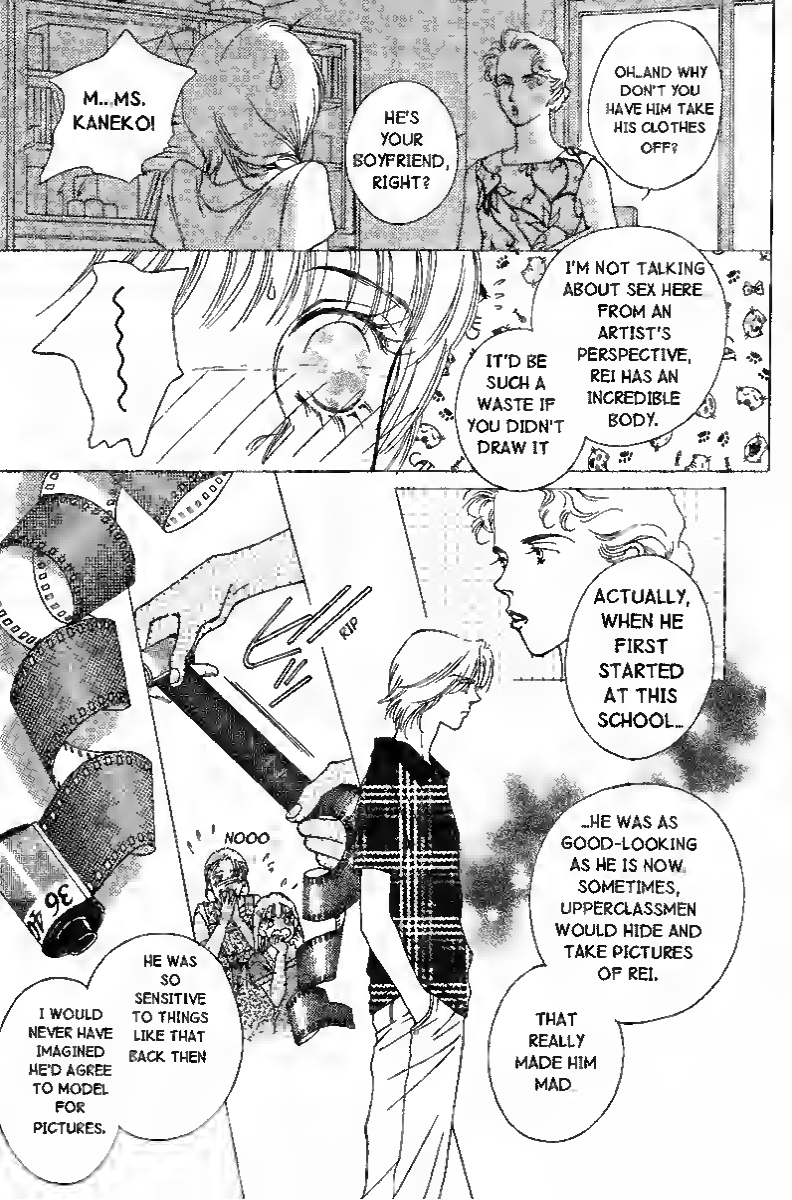
I WANT EVERYONE TO SEE THE REI I SEE.
UH...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YES. IF IT'S A BIG DEAL, WE'LL JUST FORGET IT.
.....
I GUESS...
I MEAN, I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
REALLY?
REI WILL TRY HIS HARDEST.
AT LEAST THERE ARE NO CREEPS IN THE ART STUDIO NOW.
!
UM...
INSTEAD OF THE ART STUDIO,
MAYBE WE COULD GO TO YOUR APART-MENT...
WHY?
?

?
..WHAT I MEAN IS..
UM, WELL.. THE STUDIO'S NOT EXACTLY IDEAL FOR..
...I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT OFF. TAKE IT ALL OFF.
THUNK
UST

UM, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO..
I WON'T FORCE YOU TO.
NEXT TIME, YOU SHOULD COME, TOO.
!
NO IT'S TOTALLY COOL.
I USUALLY WALK AROUND NAKED IN THE PARK...
HUH?
..WITH MY COAT ON!
GRRRRAAT
JUST KIDDING.
BUT THE OTHER DAY, I SNUCK INTO THE POOL AND WENT SKINNY-DIPPING WITH TATSUYA AND THE GUYS
IT FELT AWESOME.
55

WOW...
THERE ARE SO MANY MOTOR-CYCLES!
HALF OF THEM ARE WRECKED..
BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO GET RID OF THEM.
NO ONE CAN BELIEVE I LIVE IN SUCH A SHIT-HOLE, BUT IT'S TECHNICALLY AN OFFICE BUILDING.
THEY TOLD ME I COULD USE THE STORAGE AREA AS A GARAGE.
CHUCKLE
YOU'RE THE FIRST GIRL BRAVE ENOUGH TO COME HERE ON HER OWN.

WHAT ABOUT RIKA?
SHE TURNED AROUND AT THE DOOR
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GET HER CLOTHES ALL DIRTY...
IT'S AMAZING TO ME THIS BUILDING EVEN HAS ELECTRICITY AND HOT WATER.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT WOULD
HARD TO BELIEVE!
NOT EXACTLY THE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE I WAS LOOKING FOR!
HEY.
WHAT'S UP, REI?
HEY, KENNY.
H... HELLO
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME LAST TIME, SIR.
SIR?!
KENNY'S ONLY NINETEEN!
S. SIR
WHAT!?
REI...
KENNY LOOKS LIKE A BULLY, BUT DEEP DOWN HE'S REALLY SWEET.
HE'S A FIGHTER, SO LET HIM KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY JERKS BOTHERING YOU.
HE'LL BEAT THEM UP 'TIL THEY'RE PRACTICALLY DEAD...
YOU'RE PRETTY ON THE OUTSIDE BUT SCARY ON THE INSIDE
WHY DON'T YOU PAINT REI?
HE'D BE A PERFECT SUBJECT.
AW... THERE, THERE
I'M JUST A BULLY AND AN OLD MAN


M...MS. KANEKO!
HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
OH...AND WHY DON'T YOU HAVE HIM TAKE HIS CLOTHES OFF?
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SEX HERE FROM AN ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE, REI HAS AN INCREDIBLE BODY.
IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE IF YOU DIDN'T DRAW IT
KIP
ACTUALLY, WHEN HE FIRST STARTED AT THIS SCHOOL...
...HE WAS AS GOOD-LOOKING AS HE IS NOW. SOMETIMES, UPPERCLASSMEN WOULD HIDE AND TAKE PICTURES OF REI.
THAT REALLY MADE HIM MAD.
NOOO
HE WAS SO SENSITIVE TO THINGS LIKE THAT BACK THEN
I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED HE'D AGREE TO MODEL FOR PICTURES.

OH, SHIT.
I FORGOT TO LOCK THE GARAGE.
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YOU SKETCHING HIM.
WHAT? DO YOU LOCK IT EVERY TIME?
IT'S SKETCHY AROUND HERE. YOU'LL GET ROBBED IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.
I'LL MEET YOU IN THE APARTMENT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
CREEK
CLICK
HE ALWAYS LOCKS THE GARAGE...
BUT HE LEAVES HIS APART-MENT WIDE OPEN...

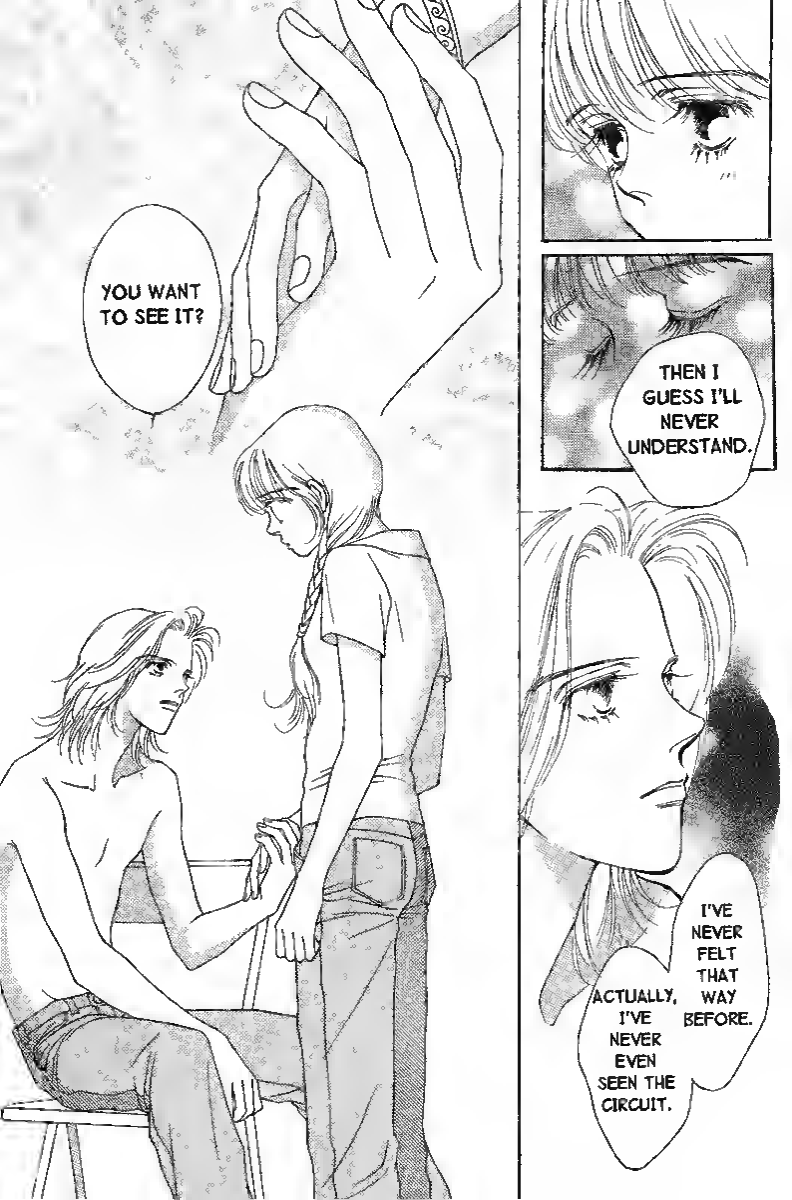
!
PLAYBOY
THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH HERE...
...BUT THE GARAGE IS FILLED TO THE BRIM.
WAAAAAAH!
.....
PLAYBOY
TH..THAT ISN'T MINE!
IT'S TATSUYA'S!
I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT IT... BUT HE KEPT PUSHING IT ON ME.
I WANT TO BORROW IT, TOO
THAT'S RIGHT! I WANT TO BORROW...
WHAT!?

WOOOOW. HER BREASTS ARE AS BIG AS BASKET-BALLS
HOW DO THEY GET LIKE THAT?
HOW THE HECK SHOULD I KNOW..
.....
I FIGURED IT'D BE A GOOD STUDY OF ANATOMY
I DON'T GET TO SEE NUDES VERY OFTEN.
EEK
OH, OKAY HEY, I HAVE THESE, TOO!
SO SHOULD WE GET STARTED?
DUNK
AAAAAAAH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE IT ALL OFF! JUST THE SHIRT'S FINE!
.....
HOW'D I GET THAT?
OH LOOK, A CUT.
HMM...
UM... CAN WE?
I'M RATHER STARTLED SOMETHING SO SO.

WOW.
REI HAS AN INCREDIBLE BODY...
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT...
...MEN'S BODIES HAVE A BEAUTY THAT'S ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM WOMEN'S.
UM...
COULD I GET A LITTLE CLOSER?
YEAH!

I'M NOT PUTTING THIS BODY TO GOOD USE...
THANKS.
YOU HAVE PERFECT BONE STRUCTURE AND MUSCLE TONE.
.....
I WANTED TO SEE HOW THE BONES CAME TOGETHER.
SO THAT'S HOW A SHOULDER BLADE REALLY LOOKS
HUH!?
HOW'D YOU GET THAT SCAR?
OH. I BROKE MY COLLAR-BONE...
WHEN I FLIPPED OVER ON MY MOTOR-CYCLE.

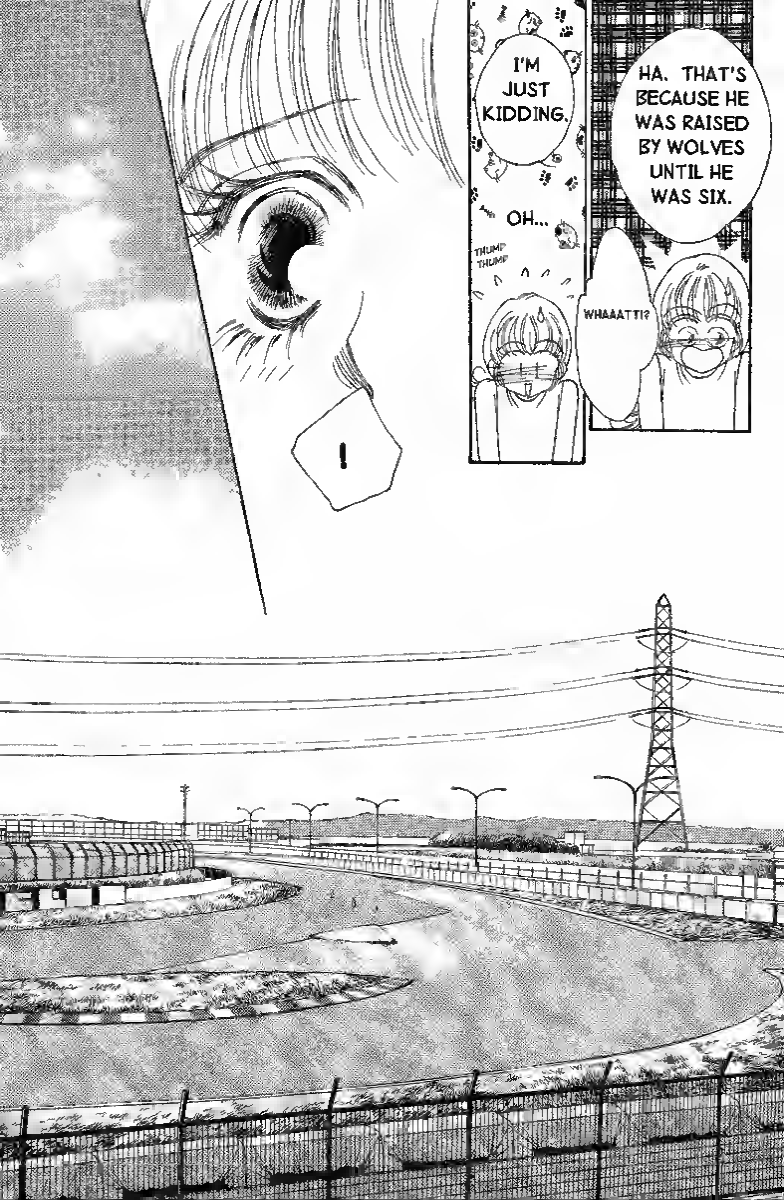
.....
MY BIKE FELL ON TOP OF ME.
IT HURT LIKE HELL BEFORE I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.
AND YOU STILL WON'T QUIT?
IS THE CIRCUIT REALLY THAT AWESOME?
YEAH, IT'S INCREDIBLE
NO TRAFFIC LIGHTS, NO ONCOMING CARS, NO PEDESTRIANS... ONLY SOMEONE WHO'S RACED IT COULD UNDERSTAND.
YOU CAN'T QUIT...
...IF YOU'VE RACED ON THE CIRCUIT EVEN ONCE.


YOU WANT TO SEE IT?
THEN I GUESS I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND.
I'VE NEVER FELT THAT WAY BEFORE.
ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THE CIRCUIT.

I WANT TO SEE...
I WANT TO SEE YOU RACE.
NISSAN
PARK CIRCUIT
PUSH
PUSH

THIS IS A CLASSMATE OF MINE
A WOMAN...!
HMM?
SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO SEE ME RACE.
REI!
REALLY.
YOU WANTED TO BE ALONE WITH HER, DIDN'T YOU?
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE YOU WANTEO TO RIDE YOUR BIKE TOOAY INSTEAO OF COMING WITH US.
YOU WANTED TO SHOW HER, OIDN'T YOU?
NGK
NIPPON-HODO
namco
HONDA

NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M KYOKO KATAYAMA. I'M GOING TO BE REI'S PARTNER IN THE 8-ENDURANCE.
UM... I'M KIRA ASO. NICE TO MEET YOU.
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO CHANGE.
HANG OUT WITH KYOKO FOR A WHILE.
WOW, A FEMALE MOTOR-CYCLE RIDER!
SHE'S WAY FASTER THAN SOME OF THE GUYS OUT THERE.
SHE USED TO RACE IN THE GRAND PRIX.
L'ATALANTE
IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME COMING TO ONE OF THESE?
UM... YES.
UM... YEAH.
HE'S A WILD CHILD AT SCHOOL, ISN'T HE?
HE'S DEFINITELY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER GUYS.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME FOR REI, TOO.
BRINGING A GIRL TO THE RACE-TRACK, I MEAN.

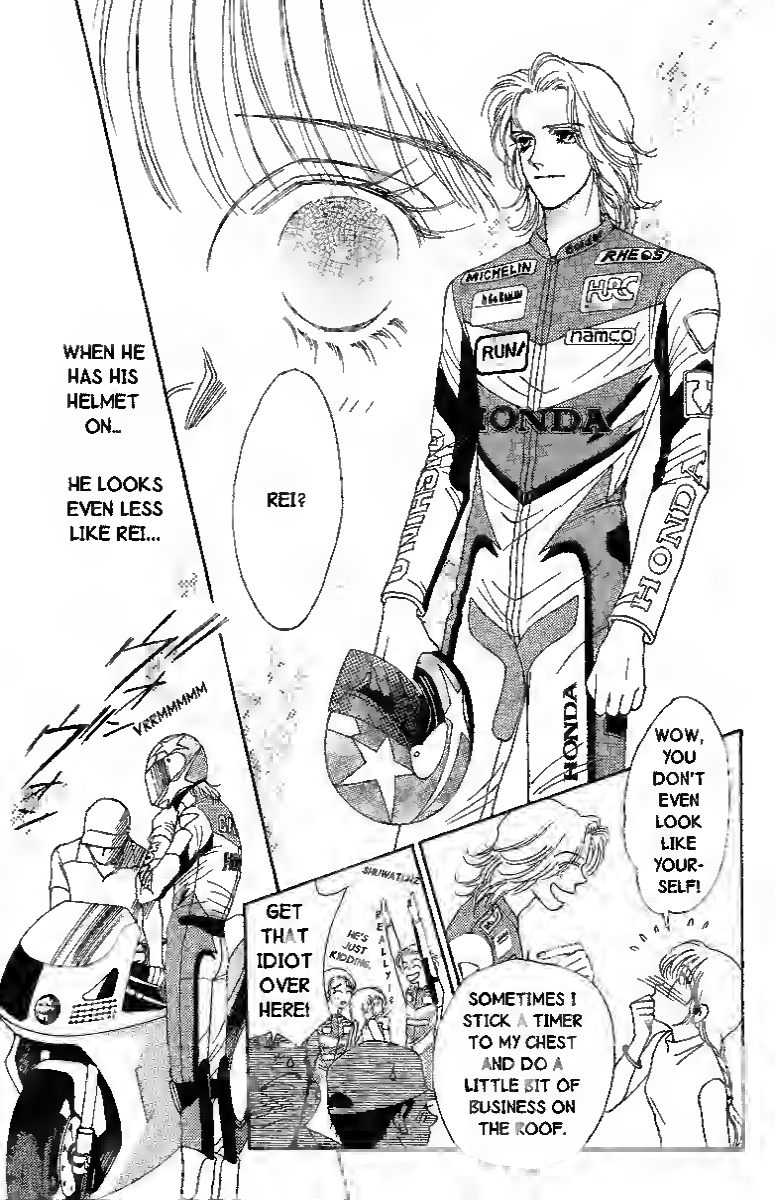

!
THUMP THUMP
OH...
I'M JUST KIDDING.
WHAAAT?!
HA. THAT'S BECAUSE HE WAS RAISED BY WOLVES UNTIL HE WAS SIX.

NISSAN
NISSAN
SUZUKI
WOW... THE RACE-TRACK IS HUMONGOUS
TSUKUBA'S ONE OF THE SMALLER TRACKS
THE SUZUKA, WHERE THE 8-ENDURANCE IS GOING TO BE HELD, IS ALMOST TWICE THIS SIZE
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD RACE THERE...
BUT SINCE REI'S STILL IN SCHOOL, IT'S WAY TOO FAR.
VRRRMMM
AAHH!
AKITAKA.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS MY HUSBAND AND THE TEAM COACH, AKITAKA.
WHOA, REI'S GIRL-FRIEND?
I'M AKITAKA NICE TO MEET YOU
AKITAKA, THIS IS KIRA REI'S GIRLFRIEND

MR. KATAYAMA, COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE SETTINGS?
YO.
Line
MY HUSBAND LOST HIS RIGHT LEG.
!
OH....
A BIKER FRIEND OF MINE JUST HAD HIS LEG AMPUTATED...
MY HUSBAND OBVIOUSLY CAUGHT THE EYE OF A DEVIL.
COS
THEY SAY THAT THERE ARE ANGELS AND DEMONS AT THE TRACK.
Shimpan
AREN'T YOU SCARED?

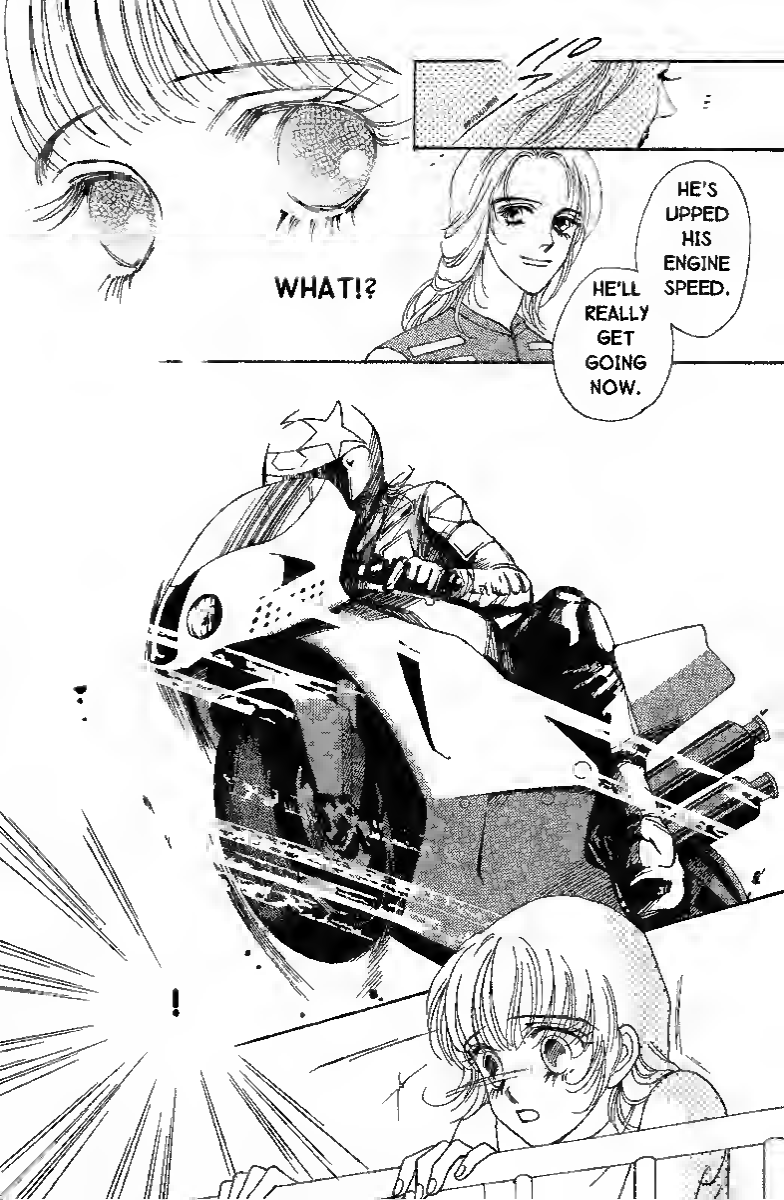
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID IT WASN'T HARD...
ISN'T IT HARD TO SEE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT...
...GETTING HURT LIKE THAT?
SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT EVERY RACER HAS THE EYES OF A KILLER.
YOU CAN'T HELP IT
WE'RE LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE WE COULD BE DEAD TOMORROW. OUR FUTURE'S NOT GUARANTEED.
BUT I'M A RACER, TOO SO I UNDER-STAND HOW PEOPLE WHO GET DRAWN INTO THAT WORLD FEEL

OR AT LEAST I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD...
BUT WHEN AKITAKA WASN'T REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, I WAS REALLY SCARED.
BUT..
...WHAT CAN I DO?
THAT'S THE MAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH.


WHEN HE HAS HIS HELMET ON...
HE LOOKS EVEN LESS LIKE REI...
REI?
MICHELIN
RHEOS
HPC
namco
RUN
HONDA
HONDA
HONDA
VRRMMMMM
WOW, YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE YOURSELF!
SUKIWATAIA
HE'S JUST KIDDING.
REALLY!
GET THAT IDIOT OVER HERE!
SOMETIMES I STICK A TIMER TO MY CHEST AND DO A LITTLE BIT OF BUSINESS ON THE ROOF.

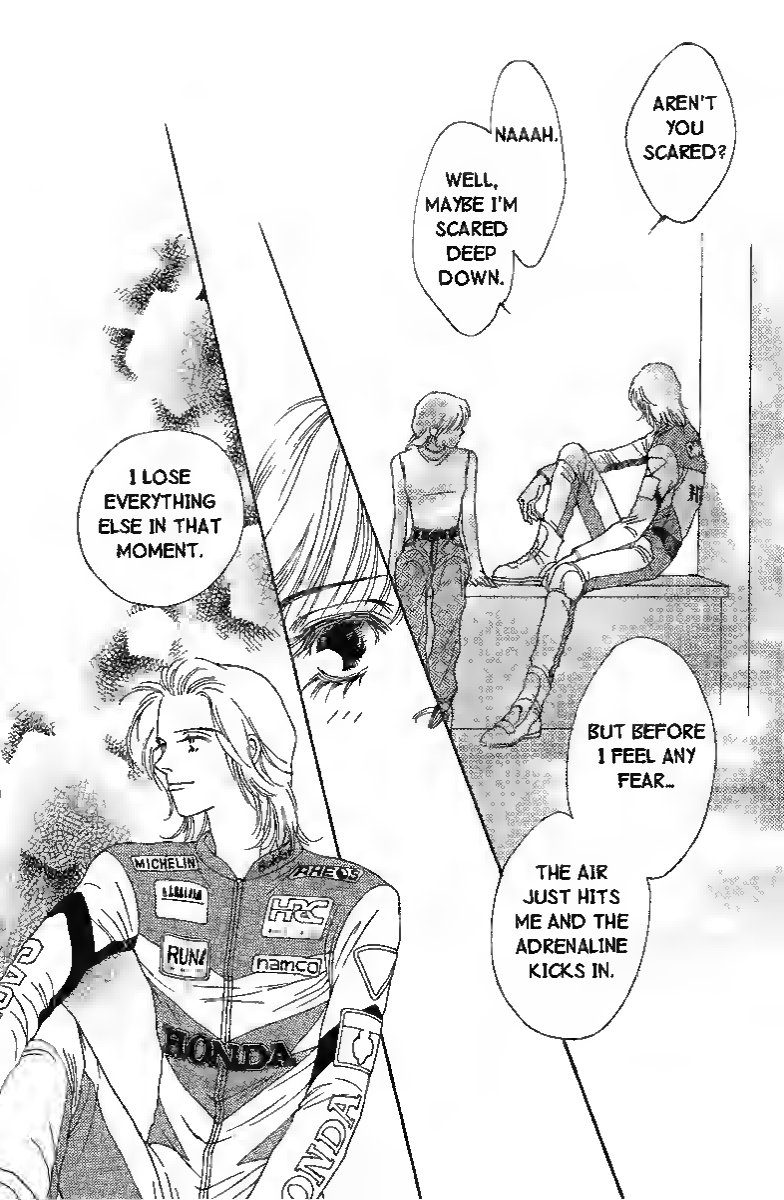
KIRA, LET'S GO WHERE WE CAN SEE BETTER.
PIIIIUUNNNN
VRRROOMMM
.....

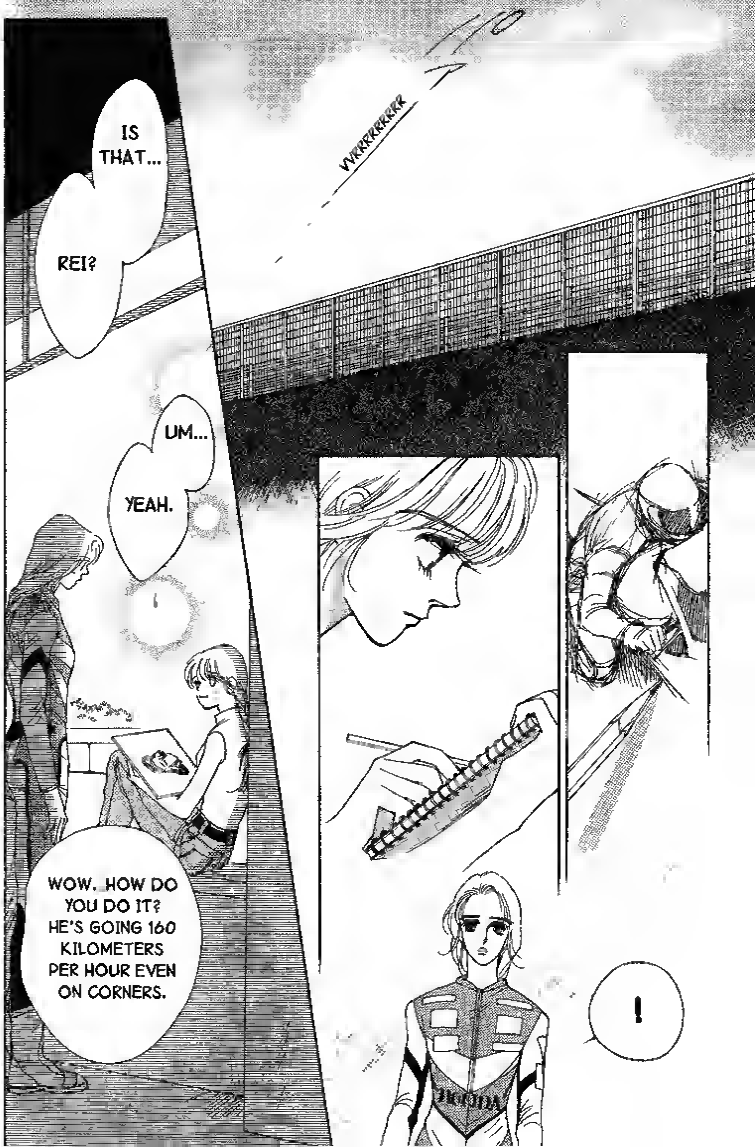
IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE, YOU SHOULD HAVE HIM SHOW YOU SOME OLD PICTURES. HE THINKS HE'S SO COOL IN HIS SUIT! IT'S ADORABLE
CHUCKLE, CHUCKLE
SIX?
!
HE'S BEEN RIDING SINCE HE WAS SIX. THE MOTORCYCLE IS PRACTICALLY PART OF HIS BODY.
YOU DEFINITELY WANT A GOOD VIEW OF THIS.
KKKTTT


WHAT!?
HE'S UPPED HIS ENGINE SPEED.
HE'LL REALLY GET GOING NOW.
!

VRRRRRRRR
VVRRRRR
THE INSTINCT TO FIGHT IS PURELY MALE.
OF COURSE, THERE'S THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH ASPECT-BUT OUR MINDS ARE STRUCTURED DIFFERENTLY.
WATCHING REI'S RIDING MAKES YOU REALIZE THAT RACING WAS MADE FOR MEN.
WHEN YOU SEE THAT KIND OF RIDING, IT'S OBVIOUS HE KNOWS HOW TO BE AGGRESSIVE.

I'LL BUST OUT TWO MINUTES AND NINE SECONDS AT SUZUKA.
WHAT A GREAT OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE.
HE'S SERIOUS, STUPID.
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL GET A GOOD TIME AT SUZUKA, TOO.
REI, THIS IS AMAZING... YOU'RE UNDER FIFTY-EIGHT SECONDS.


AREN'T YOU SCARED?
NAAAH.
WELL, MAYBE I'M SCARED DEEP DOWN.
I LOSE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THAT MOMENT.
BUT BEFORE I FEEL ANY FEAR...
THE AIR JUST HITS ME AND THE ADRENALINE KICKS IN.
MICHELIN
HRC
namco
HONDA


VVRRRRRRRR
IS THAT...
REI?
UM...
YEAH.
WOW. HOW DO YOU DO IT? HE'S GOING 160 KILOMETERS PER HOUR EVEN ON CORNERS.
!

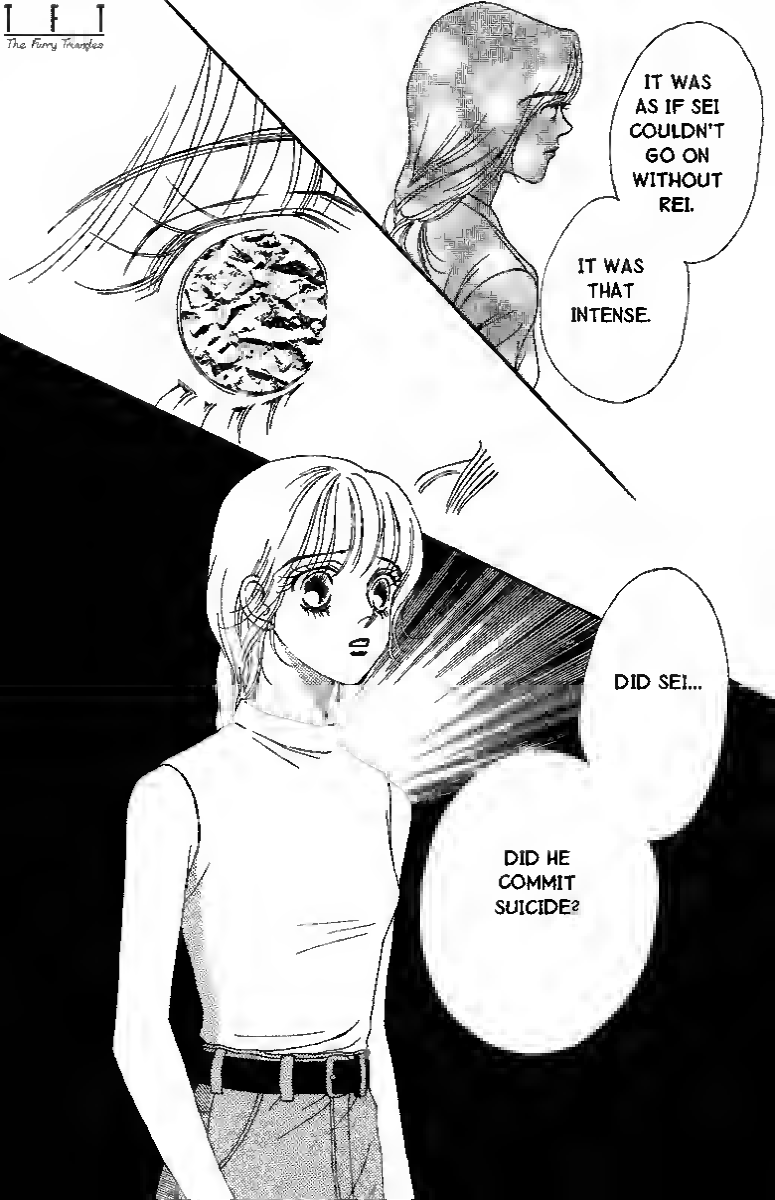
....
I JUST BURN THE IMAGE INTO MY BRAIN, THEN LET IT FLOW THROUGH TO MY FINGERS.
I MEMORIZE THE MOMENT.
UM, WELL...
I WONDER IF ALL ARTISTS ARE LIKE THAT.
I THINK SEI SAID THE SAME THING.
GASP
SEI... WAS AN ARTIST?

I...I'D BETTER GET GOING.
WAIT, KYOKO!
PLEASE..
WHAT WAS SEI LIKE?
REI DIDN'T SAY SO..
BUT I FELT LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
ALL I KNOW..
IS THAT HE AND REI WERE TWINS..
..AND THAT THEY WERE BASICALLY OPPOSITES.
AND SEI DIED TWO YEARS AGO.
BUT I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SEI.

WHEN REI GOT INTO A WRECK DURING A RACE...
REI!
REI, WAKE UP!
OPEN YOUR EYES!
HE WAS REALLY QUIET.
HE LIKED DRAWING, AND HE DREW REI A LOT.
I TOLD HIM DRAWING SOMEONE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM IS LIKE DOING A SELF-PORTRAIT....
REI HAS A SPECIAL KIND OF AURA.
WE MAY LOOK ALIKE ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT OUR ENERGIES ARE DIFFERENT.

SEI, REI'S FINE.
HE JUST BROKE HIS COLLAR-BONE
HE'S SLEEPING FROM THE ANESTHESIA, THAT'S ALL
REI!
SHUT UP!
YOU...
...MAKE ME HURT EVEN MORE.

REI..
IF YOU DIE, I CAN'T GO ON LIVING.
I DION'T THINK IT WAS RIGHT TO GO TO THAT EXTREME.
EVEN IF YOU ARE TWINS...
BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT...
...THAT THEY WERE REALLY CLOSE.


IT WAS AS IF SEI COULDN'T GO ON WITHOUT REI.
IT WAS THAT INTENSE.
DID SEI...
DID HE COMMIT SUICIDE?

HE JUMPED FROM THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL TWO YEARS AGO...
YEAH.
...RIGHT IN FRONT OF REI, NO LESS.

MARS

MARS 3

by Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP

MARS 3

Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP

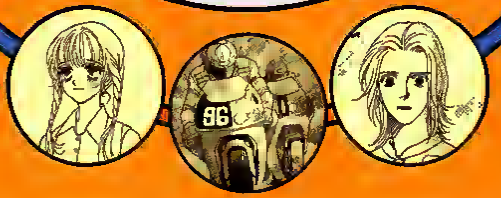
Manga/Romance
USA $9 99

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

Winner Takes All

Although Kira ond Rei ore oppasites in every way, their bond just keeps getting stronger and stronger. Rei finally trusts Kiro enaugh ta toke her to the racetrack to wotch him ride his beloved matarcycle. Just when Kira and Rei's romonce is getting hot ond heovy, Rei is called oway ta ride in the roce of his life, the Suzuko 8-endurance. Kira would give anything to be there ta support him, but her mom forbids her ta ga olong. As Kiro raats far him ocross the miles, Rei fights his way ta the finish line in this mile-a-minute mongo.

An epic ramance thot spons 15 volumes, MARS is one of Jopon's mast popular comics for teen girls ever.



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The Furry Triangle
We Love Beavers.